

Arab League Council meets today

TUNIS (Agencies) — The Arab League Council meets today in the Tunisian capital to discuss the situation in Beirut where three Palestinian refugee camps have the target of attacks by Lebanese militiamen and elements of the army. The meeting, called for by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and supported by Jordan, is expected to discuss means to end the attacks and restore peace between the Lebanese Shi'ite Amal militiamen and the Palestinian defenders of the camps. Jordan will be represented at the meeting by Acting Foreign Minister and Minister of State for Prime Minister Affairs Hazem Nuseibeh, who left for Tunis on Thursday. Before his departure from Amman, Dr. Nuseibeh said it was time for pan-Arab action on the situation in Beirut and Jordan and the PLO have adopted a coordinated stand at the meeting. He also said the subject of the next Arab summit will be discussed at the meeting.

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ILO chief receives Regent's message

GENEVA (Petra) — Minister of Labour and Social Development Khaled Al Haj Hassan Friday delivered a message from His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, to Mr. Francis Lanchard, director general of the International Labour Organisation (ILO). Mr. Lanchard expressed great interest in the subjects contained in Prince Hassan's message and welcomed cooperation with professionals in Arab countries, particularly Jordan, in the fields of vocational training. During the meeting, Mr. Lanchard and Mr. Haj Hassan also discussed the conditions of Arab labourers in the occupied Arab territories. Mr. Haj Hassan, now in Geneva to take part in the meetings of the ILO's 71st session which started Thursday, was elected chairman of the Arab group at the conference.

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Regent sends good wishes to Sweden

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, has sent a cable of good wishes to King Karl Gustaf of Sweden on his country's National Day anniversary. In his cable Prince Hassan wished the king and his people further progress and prosperity.

Israelis shell Lebanese village

SIDON (R) — Israeli artillery shelled a Lebanese village just outside Israel's new self-declared "security zone" in South Lebanon Friday, sending residents fleeing for cover, Lebanese security sources said. The bombardment caused damage in Aita Al Jebel village, but no casualties were reported, the sources said. The reason for the shelling was not clear.

Shultz told to expect better U.S.-Greek ties

ESTORIL, Portugal (R) — U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz said Friday that Greek Foreign Minister Yiannis Haralambopoulos had told him he expected "calmer seas" ahead in U.S.-Greek relations. Mr. Shultz was speaking at a news conference following talks with Mr. Haralambopoulos at this coastal resort where the two men were attending a North Atlantic Treaty Organisation foreign ministers' meeting (See page 8). "He expressed his hope and expectation that... we would have calmer seas ahead in U.S.-Greek relations and I expressed my similar hope and expectation," Mr. Shultz said.

Oman urges tighter security in Gulf

MUSCAT (R) — Gulf states should take tighter security precautions to prevent foreign saboteurs entering the region, Oman's minister of state for foreign affairs was quoted Friday as saying. Youssef Ibn Alawi Ibn Abdullah said "terrorist elements" were acting in the area under the pretext of earning a living. He said any leniency would lead to further subversive acts, apparently a reference to an abortive attempt on the life of the Emir of Kuwait on May 25 and two recent bomb explosions in Saudi Arabia.

Khamenei deplores Beirut clashes

LONDON (R) — Iranian President Ali Khamenei said Friday the fighting in Beirut refugee camps had been instigated by people who forgot Palestinian aspirations. Iran's national news agency (IRNA) said. The agency said he deplored the clashes "between Palestinians and Lebanese forces" and told a crowded Friday prayer meeting at Tehran University that those who promoted them were not really Shi'ite Muslims or Palestinians. Rather, they were "a people who have forgotten the aspirations of the Palestinian revolution." IRNA received in London quoted him as saying.

King, Thatcher review revived efforts for peace

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer with agency dispatches

LONDON — His Majesty King Hussein and British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher Friday reviewed Middle East peace efforts and Jordan's initiatives to seek a just and peaceful solution to the Palestinian problem.

A senior Thatcher aide, quoted by the Associated Press, said: "The talks were concerned with the King's peace initiative to bring about an end to the Arab-Israeli conflict and included discussion on the outcome of his recent visit to Washington."

The meeting at 10, Downing Street, was attended by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, who flew to London Thursday from Amman, and Richard Luce, the Foreign Office minister directly in charge of Middle East affairs.

King Hussein met with U.S. President Ronald Reagan late last month in Washington to discuss prospects for peace in the Middle East and told the American administration that Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) were ready for Middle East peace talks on the basis of all U.N. and Security Council resolutions, including 242 and 338, within the framework of an international conference under the auspices of the U.N.

Progress was also made during the King's visit towards the U.S. opening a dialogue with a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation prior to broader peace talks. Jordanian Information Minister Mohammad Al Khatib and Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri both said Wednesday that the meeting was set for early July.

Austrian envoy, UNRWA official briefly trapped in Beirut camp

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Austria's ambassador to Lebanon and a Canadian U.N. official were trapped for nearly three hours Friday in a besieged Palestinian refugee camp after being forced to enter it by Shi'ite Muslim militiamen and women brandishing rifles and pistols.

Ambassador Georg Zaidaric and Peter Gallagher, director of the U.N. Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) for Palestinian refugees, left the camp after Shi'ite militia leader Nabil Berri guaranteed their safety on the way out.

The militiamen and women had stopped an UNRWA convoy with Austrian-donated food for the Bourj Al Barajneh camp and forced Mr. Zaidaric and Mr. Gallagher into the camp to seek the release of seven relatives they said were held by the Palestinian def-

enders of the camp. As small arms and machine-gun battles raged between the Shi'ite Amal militia and the Palestinians, the two officials demanded a personal guarantee of safety from Mr. Berri before driving out.

Mr. Berri gave them the guarantee over their car radio and they later drove to the militia leader's home for talks.

Mr. Gallagher and the envoy were forced to enter Bourj Al Barajneh after Amal forces stopped an UNRWA convoy of food and water entering the camp. Three armed women and a bearded Amal leader in combat fatigues brandished guns, insisting the convoy of six food trucks and a water tanker could only proceed if the two officials agreed to bring back the captives and bodies believed held inside by the Palestinians.

Eight killed in Tripoli Tawheed-ADP flare-up

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Eight people were reported killed and 40 wounded Friday in ongoing factional fighting amid reports Syria and Lebanon agreed to form a 5,000-man "strike force" to restore peace in security in Beirut. "The main task of the strike force would be to consolidate security in greater Beirut, dismantle the green line and collect the heavy weapons from all rival militias and parties," cabinet minister Joseph Hashem told the Daily Star independent newspaper.

Police said six people were killed and 25 wounded in night-long mortar and grenade-throwing battles between the pro-Syrian Arab Democratic Party's (ADP) "Arabian Knights" militia and the fundamentalist "Islamic Unification Movement" (Tawheed).

Police said the fighting in Tripoli was the worst since Syria mediated a peace pact between the

"Arabian Knights" and "Islamic Unification" last December, ending an intermittent two-year war for dominance of Lebanon's second largest city.

Combatants blasted each other with rockets from multi-barrelled launchers mounted on trucks called Stalin's Organs in the sprawling residential neighbourhoods of Bab Tabbaneh and Beal Mohsen. Snipers also duelled from rooftops, according to police.

Police said a ceasefire was called at mid-morning Friday, silencing the rockets after 14 hours of shelling. But snipers continued to fire from both positions beyond the truce deadline in the city, 80 kilometres north of Beirut.

Observers said the flare-up could have been sparked by the alleged Syrian signal to the Shi'ite Amal militia to continue their attacks on Palestinian refugee camps

not been discussed in such detail during King Hussein's visit to Washington last month.

Mr. Masri said the process should begin with a meeting between U.S. officials and a joint Jordanian-Palestinian team not including members of the PLO, and lead towards an international conference.

The official repeated earlier U.S. refusals to contemplate such a conference. "We and Jordan are on a different sheet of music at this time," he said.

"We have taken on board the (Jordanian) desire for an international context to the talks, but we are still very much at the stage of playing with ideas on what it should be."

"But we take the emergence of problems as a good sign. It means something is happening," he added.

The official said Washington was greatly pleased with King Hussein's bid to move towards peace negotiations this year. It goes well beyond anything we have heard from any Arab leader for years on a desire to talk peace with Israel."

"There is a new momentum because the parties want it to be there," he said. "We will find appropriate ways to maintain the momentum, the primary burden remaining on the parties, however."

The official said that if the meeting with the joint Jordanian-Palestinian team occurred, Washington would repeat its conditions for talking to the PLO.

He said there would be no negotiations at the meeting as envisaged by Mr. Masri, who said Wednesday he hoped it would clear the way for U.S. talks with

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REGENT ATTENDS ASHRAFIYEH PRAYERS: His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, attends Friday prayers at the Abu Darwish Mosque in Ashrafiyeh, Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat delivered the sermon at the prayers outlining freedoms in Islam and the faithful's right to use the freedom (Petra photo)

UNESCO president assails U.S., U.K.

PARIS (AP) — The president of UNESCO's general conference, Said Al Tal of Jordan, has sharply criticised the U.S. decision to withdraw from the Organisation and Britain's threat to pull out at the end of the year.

In welcoming Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi to the U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation, Dr. Tal said his visit came at a time when some countries had turned their backs on the principles of international cooperation.

He said the reason for this was "perhaps because they have not been able to bend (the principles) to the service of their own narrow interests." Without referring directly to the United States or Britain, Dr. Tal said the crisis caused by these actions "constitutes not only a grave infringement of (UNESCO's) universality but also a step towards replacing multilateral cooperation by bilateral cooperation."

He said such cooperation would permit rich countries to impose their conditions to the detriment of poor nations.

"In this critical situation, we are aware of the role of non-aligned countries under your presidency... to rebuild the foundations of international cooperation which will be independent of the interests of the two superpowers," Dr. Tal said.

Mr. Gandhi is president of the 101-nation Non-Aligned Movement.

The United States withdrew from UNESCO Dec. 31, charging it had become over political, spent too much and was poorly managed.

Britain has given formal notice it will pull out at the end of the year unless there are major changes in the operations at the 160-nation Paris-based organisation.

Gandhi signals end to strain in ties with France

PARIS (R) — Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi set relations with Paris firmly back on course Friday, calling France a key commercial and diplomatic partner despite its implication in a recent spy scandal in India.

Mr. Gandhi, speaking to reporters on the second day of a five-day visit to Paris, said charges early this year of a French role in a New Delhi spy ring were a thing of the past.

"That incident has past and will not be repeated," he said. "We expect a lot more exchanges between France and India. We could work together on a new world economic order and certain diplomatic initiatives," he added.

French President Francois Mitterrand, who met Mr. Gandhi after he arrived from Egypt Thursday night, has made India a focus of efforts to reorientate French policy towards the Third

(Continued on page 5)

U.S. considering selling F-20s, mobile Hawks and Stingers to Jordan

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States is considering selling F-20 fighter planes and two anti-aircraft missile systems to Jordan, U.S. officials said Thursday.

Secretary of State George Shultz said on Tuesday the administration was close to decisions on arms sales to Middle East countries and the White House has linked an arms deal with Jordan to the Kingdom's Middle East peace efforts.

The U.S. officials said the F-20, mobile Hawk missiles and hand-held Stinger missiles were among weapons being considered for sale to Jordan.

An administration official said no decisions would be made until consultations had been held with Congress.

This week, 70 of the 100 members of the Senate signed a motion opposing such sales unless Jordan begins direct talks with Israel.

A Senate source said he believed Jordan's priority was to obtain the Stingers and mobile Hawks.

The F-20, an advanced fighter, was developed by Northrop for export sales and is not in use by the U.S. armed forces. No country has bought it so far.

In the past Congress has opposed the sale of mobile Hawk missiles to Jordan, contending they would be a "threat to Israel," but has allowed the sale of a non-mobile version of the missile.

Congressional sources said members might be willing to let Jordan convert some of these to mobile weapons.

White House spokesman Larry Speakes said on Tuesday that the sale of weapons to Jordan would give it the security it needed to proceed with its peace efforts.

A chief sponsor of the Senate resolution urging a ban on advanced arms sales to Jordan has agreed not to press it after sharp criticism from fellow Republicans.

Although Senator John Heinz formally introduced the resolution Tuesday, he has agreed to "accommodate the leaders and the group and not push it at this time," an aide to the senator told Reuters.

At a closed-door Republican meeting, Senator Richard Lugar, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, "came down pretty hard on Heinz and asked him to hold his fire," an aide to Mr. Lugar said.

Iraq reports raids on Tehran, Abadan

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — Iraq said its warplanes struck Tehran, the southern city of Abadan and other Iranian towns Friday and warned it would keep up attacks until Iran agreed to end the Gulf war.

A military spokesman in Baghdad said three waves of Iraqi jets struck the Iranian capital in a 15-minute period before and after 3 a.m. (2300 GMT Thursday).

Iran's national news agency IRNA, said Iraqi rockets hit civilian areas in Tehran at that time without causing damage or casualties.

Iraq has repeatedly attacked Tehran and other Iranian cities in the past 12 days in an effort to break the stalemate in the war, which started in September 1980.

The spokesman said the attacks "will continue until Iran submits to peace." He said Iraqi planes bombed the once-wealthy oil city of Abadan, the western town of Ilam and the northwestern town of Sar Dasht Friday morning, and artillery shelled the western border village of Sar-e-Pol-e-Zahab.

The raids brought to 43 the

number of air attack reportedly launched by Iraq against Tehran since March 14 when the so-called "war of the cities" escalated between the two warring states.

Iran has declared its readiness for a limited cease-fire with Iraq banning attacks on towns and trans-Gulf shipping lanes. Iraq, however, said it was not prepared to settle for anything less than a comprehensive settlement to the whole conflict.

On Thursday, Iraq said its planes hit Tehran twice and raided a petrochemical complex at Bandar Khomeini at the head of the Gulf and Iran's main oil export terminal at Kharg Island.

IRNA confirmed the Tehran raids and said it hit back against Iraq's intensive strikes in the 57-month-old Gulf war by shelling Iraqi border towns.

A military spokesman in Baghdad said the attack on Kharg, "caused destruction to its facilities, leaving clouds of smoke filling the skies."

Iran may use chemical weapons, page 2

SLA men threaten to kill 24 UNIFIL hostages

SIDON, Lebanon (Agencies) — Gunmen of the Israeli-backed "South Lebanon Army" (SLA) threatened to kill 24 Finnish U.N. peacekeeping troops taken hostage Friday after confused clashes in South Lebanon, a U.N. spokesman said.

Timor Goksel, spokesman for the U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), said 11 SLA militiamen handed over their weapons to Finnish troops at Qantara, just outside Israel's self-declared "security zone", after clashing with them.

Causes of the clash were unclear, but after UNIFIL released the 11 men, SLA reinforcements seized five Finns, including two officers. They accused UNIFIL of having attacked their comrades, a charge Goksel denied.

The 11 SLA soldiers later reached another village and were taken hostage by Shi'ite Muslim Amal militia controlling the area, Goksel said.

He said SLA fighters next captured 19 Finnish soldiers at the village of Adaiseh, near the Israeli border.

The SLA threatened to kill the 24 Finns unless Amal handed back its 11 SLA hostages, Goksel said.

"They said they want to kill them, one every hour, until all their men are returned. But we don't have their men," Goksel said.

He said UNIFIL troops in South Lebanon have taken "some military measures against any eventuality," he said.

Asked what the measures were, Goksel said: "We have moved some reinforcements into the area." He declined to give any other details.

Reporters in Bedias, 20 kilometres west of Qantara, said Amal displayed the 11 SLA captives in an impromptu news conference.

The prisoners said they were attacked by Amal and decided to surrender.

An Israeli military source in Tel Aviv described the incident as "a very serious initiative by the U.N. forces." But Goksel rejected the charge, saying: "We do not attack people."

"The situation is very confused and we are trying to clarify it," Goksel added.

Israel wants the SLA to guard "security" in the zone when it completes its promised withdrawal from Lebanon. Amal has sworn to keep up resistance attacks until Israel and the SLA leave.

The SLA have had repeated confrontations with U.N. troops who refuse to allow them to move with their weapons in the UNIFIL zone.

Mohammad Shehadeh, an Amal official in South Lebanon, said he led the 35-man unit that attacked the outpost before dawn. He said the raid was ordered by Daoud Daoud, Amal's military commander in South Lebanon.

Amal fighters launched a similar raid last week on the village of Al Thamiyah and kidnapped 27 SLA militiamen. The 1,500-man SLA is mainly Christian but the 27 men were all Shi'ites.

There was speculation that Amal staged the raid as a smokescreen for the men to defect.

Daoud Daoud told reporters in Bedias that the raid was ordered in retaliation for statements Thursday by Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

Mr. Rabin, currently touring the United States, said in Chicago that the Israeli army will retaliate to guerrilla raids even after all Israeli troops have withdrawn from the buffer zone.

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Jordan, Turkey sign agreement to avoid double taxation

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan and Turkey Thursday signed an agreement to avoid double taxation with the aim of promoting trade between the two countries.

The agreement, which covers taxes on income and capital, provides criteria to avoid double taxation in respect of various kinds of income derived from business, international transportation, interest, dividends, royalties, movable and immovable property, dependent and independent personal services and so on. The agreement also provides for exchange of information to prevent tax evasion.

The agreement, which is expected to encourage commercial exchange between the two countries, will enter into force upon the exchange of instruments of ratification and its provisions will have effect from the first day of the year following the ratification.

The agreement was signed by Mr. Salman Tarawneh, the director general of the Income Tax Department and by Turkish ambassador to Amman Resat Arim.

Romanian delegation departs

AMMAN (Petra) — A Romanian trade delegation has left Amman after signing several trade agreements for the purchase of Jordanian products.

The delegation was headed by a number of Jordanian industries in implementation of a trade protocol signed by Romania and Jordan towards the end of last year. Dr. Mohammad Bani Hani, director of the Trade Centres Corporation at the Ministry of Industry and Trade who was present at the signing of the agreements, said that a Jordanian trade delegation will go to Romania in the coming month to sign contracts for importing Romanian products.

The agreements came at the end of the Romanian delegation's week-long visit to Jordan.

Examination season underway

AMMAN (J.T.) — Nearly 13,000 students from the West Bank of Jordan are taking the end-of-the-year twajhi examinations which started on Thursday, according to the Ministry of Education.

A statement from the ministry said that on the East Bank 41,069 students are taking the same examinations and at the same time 53,241 students, who have completed the preparatory stage, are sitting for an examination to decide their admission into the secondary stage.

Out of these students, the ministry said, 74.4 per cent come from government schools and the rest are from private schools and those run by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA).

The current examination session is expected to end on Thursday, according to the statement.

JNRCS president leaves for East European, Asian tour

AMMAN (Petra) — Dr. Ahmad Abu Oura, president of the Jordanian National Red Crescent Society (JNRCS) left for Sofia, Bulgaria, Thursday at the start of a tour which will also take him to the Soviet Union, North and South Korea, China and Yugoslavia.

Dr. Abu Oura will attend an international film festival on health protection organised by the Bulgarian Red Cross Society. He will then go to Moscow to hold talks on ways of bolstering cooperation between the Soviet and Jordanian Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in humanitarian issues.



The Jordanian-Palestinian joint committee Thursday holds a meeting to discuss the situation in the occupied territories and ways to help the Arab population under Israeli rule (Petra photo)

GUVS prepares intensive fund-raising campaign to establish cancer centre

AMMAN (J.T.) — A two-day fund-raising campaign to collect JD one million to cover the first phase of setting up a cancer treatment centre at the University of Jordan will be staged in the middle of the current month, President of the Executive Council of the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) Abdullah Al Khatib said Friday.

Dr. Khatib said that the campaign, under the logo "knock on the door and contribute to the establishment of a hope centre", is organised by the national team for setting up the cancer centre with the help of students from the University of Jordan and community colleges.

The campaign, Dr. Khatib added, is part of general fund-raising scheme to raise JD one million in contributions with the aid of parents, companies, banks and different institutes in the Kingdom. The one-year national scheme is meant to inform citizens about the necessity of the project,

Dr. Khatib added.

Speaking about the procedures of the project, Dr. Khatib said the first phase includes setting up a specialised clinic, equipped with pathology and research laboratories, as part of the main project. The clinic would include a socio-psychological unit in addition to temporary observation departments which are both needed by afflicted persons during treatment, he added.

Among other aims, the cancer treatment centre is expected to provide integral treatment for cancer patients in Jordan regarding diagnosis and treatment. Dr. Khatib pointed out, adding that it also provides socio-moral support for patients in addition to data, statistics and records to identify cancer in Jordan.

He explained that the records would categorise cancer into topographic and demographic distributions and would provide capabilities of scientific research on a larger scale to discover the reasons

behind cancer.

One important task of the cancer centre would be to activate connections with international working institutes and similar centres to build a cooperative relationship based on mutual interests, he said. The idea for a cancer centre was crystallised last year and prompted by GUVS. The total estimated cost of the project could reach JD 8 million.

A joint committee was formed in Nov. 1984 to study the project. The committee which comprised former Health Minister Kamel Al Ajlouni and doctors from the University of Jordan studied the technicalities of implementing the badly-needed project. GUVS has already allocated JD 50,000 for the project and another JD 100,000, from the proceeds of a welfare lottery has also been collected for the centre.

Medical statistics in Jordan show that the number of cancer cases reaches 1,300 every year.

Joint committee discusses ways to support Arab population in Israeli occupied territories

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordanian-Palestinian joint committee for supporting the steadfastness of the Arab people in the occupied territories held a meeting in Amman Thursday and decided on measures to help the Arab population under Israeli rule.

A statement following the meeting said that the session was in continuation of the process of coordination and cooperation between the two sides, designed to bolster the steadfastness of the Arab population.

Several decisions which are expected to bolster the steadfastness of the Arab population were taken at the meeting, according to Interior Minister Hassan Al Kayed who led the Jordanian side to the meeting. He said that the two sides agreed to hold another meeting at the Interior Ministry on Sunday to pursue discussions on important subjects on the committee's agenda.

The Palestinian side to the meeting was led by Mr. Khalil Al Wazir, deputy commander of the Palestine Forces.

Milhem outlines financial difficulties

Committee member from the Palestinian side, Mohammad Milhem, was quoted by Reuters news agency as saying that the committee does not receive sufficient financial aid from Arab countries any more and this obstructs its work and its efforts to help the Arab population in the occupied territories.

He was quoted as saying that Saudi Arabia, which donated \$30 million to the committee this year, was the only Arab country out of a total of seven oil-producing states that honoured its commitments this year. "The committee's funds are not sufficient and we have a lot of problems at hand," Mr. Milhem said.

The seven Arab states of Libya, Kuwait, Algeria, Iraq, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates pledged at the 1978 Arab summit meeting to donate a total of \$100 million annually for 10 years to help the Palestinian people in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Mr. Milhem said that Palestine Liberation Organisation Chairman Yasser Arafat had chaired a meeting of a committee in charge of the occupied territories affairs to study means of overcoming this problem.

Vatican sends Ramadan message to Muslims

AMMAN (J.T.) — Following is the text of a Ramadan message sent to Muslims by the Vatican Secretariat for Non-Christian Affairs:

"Once again, as you have done for fourteen centuries without interruption, you are carrying out the annual fast of the month of Ramadan, an act by which you express your obedience to the will of God. It makes us truly happy to see this concrete expression of your faith, and it is from the depths of our heart that we offer you, our brothers and sisters before God, our warmest greetings.

"Indeed, as it concerns us, we confess with conviction that your God and ours is the one true God, as the great majority of Muslims affirm. In March, 1981, Pope John Paul-II addressed a gathering of Muslims and said: 'I deliberately address you as brothers'. That is certainly what we are, because we are members of the same human

family, whose efforts, whether people realise it or not, tend towards God and the truth that comes from Him. But we are especially brothers in God, who created us and whom we are trying to reach, in our own ways, through faith, prayer and worship, through the keeping of His law and through sub-mission to His designs."

"My brothers and sisters in God, you desire the same as we that faith in God will lead our modern society to make good use of the discoveries of science and technology and to strengthen spiritual values and other riches of the human spirit which are today threatened by selfishness and an uncontrolled quest for power and material goods. We are firmly convinced that seeking to liberate man by realising him from his submission to God is to take a false path. True submission to God obviously presupposes a humble desire to do His will which

always transcends our own wishes and the limits of our heart.

Even more than adults, it is particularly the coming generations, children, students, and young workers who seriously run the risk of losing a sense of God. Accordingly, we cannot allow another year to pass without extending our arms to you so that together we might promote the values which flow from faith in the One God. What important deeds could be accomplished if all believers would unite their spiritual forces to put them at the service of God and to seek the good of the human race.

In the profound hope that 1985 will bring about a greater unity of hearts among us, I repeat my fraternal greetings, hoping that they communicate to you the sentiments of all Catholics. The message was signed by the president of the secretariat Francis Cardinal Arinze.

British excavations at Tell es-Sa'idiyeh shed light on Jordan Valley's hazy cultural history

By Rami G. Khouri

Special to the Jordan Times

After a break of 18 years, a new team of archaeologists led by Jonathan Tubb of the British Museum has resumed excavations at the important Jordan Valley site of Tell es-Sa'idiyeh. The first season of digging earlier this year suggests that Tell es-Sa'idiyeh may be a rare Jordanian site that was continuously inhabited during the entire Early Bronze Age (3300-2000 B.C.), particularly problematic period in the ancient history of this area.

Tell es-Sa'idiyeh, one of the largest mounds in the Jordan Valley, was identified during the early years of Jordanian archaeology as an important historical site that warranted extensive excavations. In 1926, the American archaeologist W.F. Albright thought it was the site of the biblical city of Zaphon, mentioned in Judges 12:1.

When Nelson Glueck visited it in 1943, a reading of the surface pottery sherds suggested to him the site was occupied for a long period of ancient history, from the Early Bronze Age to the Iron II period, or roughly from 3300-586 B.C., and again during the Persian, Hellenistic, Roman and Byzantine eras. He thought it was the site of the biblical city of Zarthan (Joshua 3:16 and I Kings 7:46).

About 40 metres west of the main mound, Glueck identified a smaller site that was occupied during the earlier Chalcolithic period (4500-3300 B.C.). This was excavated briefly in 1953 by the French scholar H. de Contenson, who found the thin remains of a settlement dating from the Middle

Chalcolithic period, around 4000-3500 B.C.

The main mound at Tell es-Sa'idiyeh was first excavated by Professor James Pritchard of the University of Pennsylvania, during four seasons in the mid-1960s. His work, on the main mound and an adjacent lower spur, revealed several ancient occupations spanning the Late Bronze Age to the Roman era, or approximately from 1550 B.C. to the Second Century A.D.

Early settlement

The earliest settled occupation was revealed in the remains of a cemetery from the Late Bronze/Early Iron Age transition period, dating from the 13th and 12th Centuries B.C. The cemetery, 45 of whose graves were dug, was located on the smaller spur mound to the west of the main tell. This "cosmopolitan" Iron Age culture had trading and cultural links with civilisations as far away as Egypt, Cyprus, Syria and Mycenae.

On the north side of the tell, and very much visible today, was a 2.25-metre-wide stone staircase, that connected the Iron Age city with its water supply on the floor of the valley. Ninety-five steps are still preserved, but the upper 45 steps have disappeared with the passage of time.

A mudbrick wall in the centre of the staircase supported the roof, which helped camouflage the hidden staircase to allow the city residents safe, permanent access to their vital water source. Pritchard thought the staircase dated from towards the end of the Iron Age I era, or around the 10th Century B.C.

On the main tell, excavations on the north-west revealed a well-planned urban area from the Iron Age II period, with a series of two-room houses, or workshops, fronting on two parallel streets. Dating from the middle of the 8th Century B.C., these were part of an Iron Age "city" that was protected by a 3.5-metre-thick city wall.

Towards the end of the Iron Age, the area seems to have been used as a threshing floor and grain storage area, to judge by a smooth surface into which were cut 97 circular pits and two rectangular bins lined with mud-bricks.

On the summit of the tell, a monumental, 22-metre-square building, or "palace", was composed of seven rooms arranged around a paved central courtyard. Carbon 14 dates indicate it was used in the middle of the 4th Century B.C., towards the end of the Persian period.

In the subsequent Hellenistic era, the summit accommodated a rectangular, fortress-like mud-brick building roofed with sycamore beams covered with reeds and mud. The last occupation level on the summit, in the Roman period, included a building that served as a watchtower or fortress, and two water reservoirs.

Enigmatic period

Since Pritchard ended his excavations in 1967, archaeologists have suspected that Tell es-Sa'idiyeh still contained a considerable amount of archaeological and historical material. More specifically, Dr. Jonathan Tubb of the British Museum

was intrigued by the hints that Tell es-Sa'idiyeh may have been continuously occupied during the Early Bronze Age (3300-2000 B.C.). This was a particularly enigmatic period in the ancient history of the Jordan Valley, when there seem to have been few settled cities and people may have led a more nomadic life.

His excavations last year at Tiwal esh-Sharqi cemetery, further south in the Jordan Valley, turned up an extensive Early Bronze Age IV cemetery that was used for some 150 years around 2200 B.C. His work also suggested that in the Jordan Valley there may have been a relatively smooth transition from the end of the Bronze Age into the Early Iron Age.

To further document this important period, he needed to excavate a larger city site that may have been permanently occupied throughout the Early Bronze Age. Earlier this year he secured the approval of both Dr. Pritchard and the Jordanian Department of Antiquities to resume Pritchard's excavations at Tell es-Sa'idiyeh.

He excavated the tell during six weeks in April and May, under the sponsorship of the British Museum, with further sponsorship from the British Institute in Amman for Archaeology and History, and Alfa, the Royal Jordanian Airline.

Three main areas were dug in this preliminary season. Continuing Pritchard's trenches on the north-west side of the main mound, Dr. Tubb revealed more of the 8th Century B.C. Iron Age city. The earliest levels exposed building remains that suggested the area was continually reused, and the structures modified and rebuilt.

Domestic, industrial purposes

This area seems to have been transformed from domestic to industrial purposes. One room with four bread ovens seems to have been transformed into a weaving room. Another room, with intensely green and rust red-stained pottery, may have been used for dye preparation.

Pritchard said his lowest level was built on a destruction level, and Tubb's excavations reached into this level to find a 40-centimetre-deep layer of intensely burnt ashly material. Beneath the burnt level, this year's excavations revealed the top of a mudbrick wall that was aligned differently from the later Iron Age buildings.

Preliminary assessments suggest the ashly level may not have been a classic "destruction" level left after fire caused by earthquake or warfare. Rather Dr. Tubb suggests, this area may have been abandoned for a period of time, during which natural silting

covered the walled structures beneath it, and the ash deposit may have been formed by burning off vegetation and rubbish in preparation for the mid-8th Century B.C. Iron Age houses and industrial installations that were built above it.

Dr. Tubb excavated an area on the south side of the low spur mound, hoping for an area free of tombs where he might find evidence of urban occupation from the Early Bronze Age. He came down upon an extraordinarily dense and complex cemetery area with many graves cut into one another, dating from the 13th/12th C. B.C.

He excavated 40 burials, most of which were simple, roughly square pits. Some were lined with irregularly vertically placed mud-bricks. A few were more neatly constructed, well cut rectangular pits lined with mudbricks, some of which were covered with mud-brick slabs.

Several infants were buried in jars set in simple pits, the shoulders of the jars having been broken off to insert the bodies. Most graves contained single, articulated skeletons, with the body usually extended on its back.

Most of the graves included no funerary objects, but a few had several beads, or a single pottery vessel.

'Rich' grave

One particularly rich burial, of a five-year-old girl, included bronze anklets on each leg; wrist bracelets made of white paste beads and carnelian and silver beads; a carnelian, silver and black stone beads necklace; a bronze fibula with a silver drop earring adhering to it; a bronze hair clasp; silver and steatite finger rings; a bronze weaving spindle; a finely engraved stamp seal; and an animal-shaped ceramic pot that gave the impression that the young girl was buried with her plaything.

The most interesting cemetery finds, from one of the brick-lined graves, was a well preserved three-piece bronze wine set, including a bowl, a strainer and a juglet.

The graves seem to date from the same period as the burials excavated by Pritchard on the north side of the site, or the transition from the Late Bronze Age II to Iron I (13th-12th Centuries B.C.).

In the same area, Dr. Tubb excavated a small "pinacle" of undisturbed Early Bronze Age occupation. He found burnt mud-brick debris mixed with ash, on top of a sealed, dense black ashly layer with much burnt and crushed pottery resting on a clay surface that may be a floor. Preliminary pottery analysis suggests this dates from the later EB II or early EB III period, around 2600 B.C.

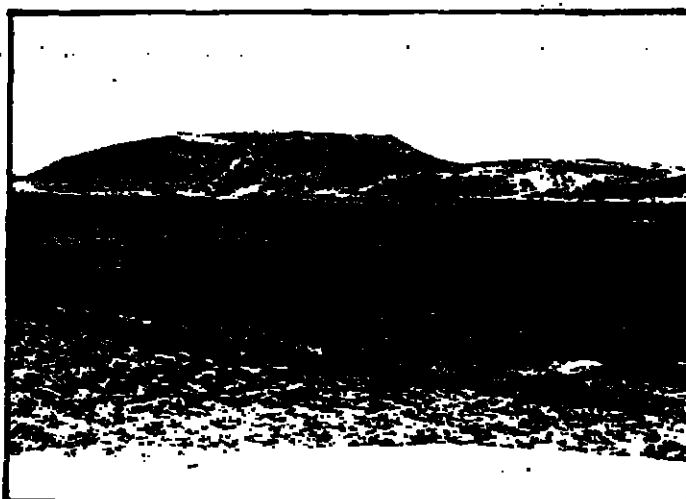
A single square excavated in the

cemetery on the north side of the low spur mound revealed several layers that have been badly disturbed by ploughing. In the upper levels were LB II-Iron I sherds, human bone fragments and Early Bronze Age sherds.

Below the ploughed levels was a 65-centimetre-wide stone wall that may be the outside wall of a building. This area will be excavated further in the future to investigate the building that still lies beneath the earth.

On the south-west slope of the low mound, excavations uncovered the foundation remains of a 95-centimetre-wide wall constructed of large, flat stones. East of it, a 30-centimetre-thick destruction level rested upon a blackened floor surface with patches of white plaster. The floor runs up against a mudbrick wall to the north, still standing three courses high. The large mudbricks are 40 x 22 x 14 centimetres in size.

This area will also be excavated in future to determine the nature of the building that exists here. On the surface of the floor were much pottery, grinding stones and clusters of bracteate shells. The pottery indicates the building dates from



View of Tell es-Sa'idiyeh viewed from the north (Photo by Alan Hills)

the EB II period, around 2800 B.C.

Dr. Tubb, who plans to continue his excavations next year, feels the work this season has strengthened the view that Tell es-Sa'idiyeh may contain a complete sequence of human occupation spanning the entire Early Bronze

If so, the site should prove to be invaluable for clarifying the cultural history of the central Jordan Valley during the Early Bronze Age, as well as shedding important light on the heretofore hazy transition from the Early Bronze to the Middle Bronze Ages.

AUDITORS' REPORT

We have examined the balance sheet of SPIE BATIGNOLLES - Jordan Branch (Foreign Limited Co.) as at 31st December, 1984 and the related profit and loss statement for the year then ended, and have obtained all the information and explanations which we required for the purposes of our audit.

Our examination was made in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, and accordingly included such tests of the accounting records and such other auditing procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances.

In our opinion, and according to the records and vouchers of the company and to the information and explanations given to us, the accompanying Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss Statement present fairly the financial position of SPIE BATIGNOLLES - Jordan Branch as at 31st December, 1984, and the result of its operations for the year then ended.

BAWAB & CO.

Amman, 23rd April 1985.

SPIE BATIGNOLLES - JORDAN BRANCH BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 1984

	JD	Fils	JD	Fils
CURRENT ASSETS				
Cash in hand	543	100		
Cash at banks (Note 4)	22198	680		
Debtors	15740	690		
Total Current Assets			38482	470
REPRESENTED BY				
Registered capital in Jordan			36000	000
Head Office Account - Paris	8229	200		
Less: Net Loss for 1984	5746	730	2482	470
			38482	470

The attached notes to the financial statements form an integral part of these statements

signed

SITE RESIDENT ENGINEER

Amman, 23rd April, 1985.



Grave of a five-year-old girl with her animal-shaped ceramic pot near her head (Photo by Alan Hills)

Jordan Times

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ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Friday's

Al Ra'i: Jordan-British talks

FRIDAY KING HUSSEIN holds a meeting with British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher in order to discuss the Middle East question and review the outcome of his talks with the Reagan administration over the issue. King Hussein will undoubtedly urge Britain to take speedy action to help bring a lasting Middle East settlement.

The King's current efforts abroad are regarded as the most significant diplomatic moves to date, to reactivate international efforts for solving the Arab-Israeli conflict and muster support for holding an international conference to implement U.N. Security Council resolutions designed to bring peace to the Middle East. The London talks open up the prospect of a new and more effective role by the European Community in bringing about the aspired for peace. The King's talks reflect a true and determined effort to achieve justice for the Palestinian people and an end to their problem.

Al Dustour: Fruitful drive

THE TALKS which King Hussein will hold Friday in London are designed to break the current deadlock in the efforts to reach a settlement for the Middle East conflict. The King's meeting with British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher are another link in his world-wide campaign to explain the Arab views with regard to an international conference on the Middle East conflict and to enlist backing and support from the European community for his endeavours to reach a lasting settlement.

King Hussein has explained to the Reagan administration the Arab points of view and as a result of his talks new signs began to appear in the offing that Washington is about to take meaningful steps designed to pave the way for a settlement. King Hussein's efforts, which were instrumental to bring about this change in Washington's policies, were designed to serve the Palestine cause and restore Arab rights in Palestine.

King Hussein's endeavours to bring about justice and peace should be backed not only by the European Community and Britain but also by all world nations, and there must be some effort on the part of the international community to end the deadlock and take steps towards bringing about a genuine peace.

Sawt Al Shaab: Zionist obstruct peace effort

THE SUBJECT American arms sales to Jordan provided the Zionist lobby in the United States with a chance to direct its criticism of the Reagan administration and its policies. The lobby has succeeded in making the U.S. senate decide to ban the sale of arms to Jordan until it conducts direct talks with Israel as a reprisal against Reagan's response to King Hussein's efforts for convening an international conference and holding a dialogue on the Middle East with the United States.

Jordan will not accept Israel's conditions for making peace and will definitely reject the humiliating terms imposed on the sales of U.S. arms. The purpose for the Senate's ban was to cause embarrassment to the Reagan administration, which has decided to give momentum to the Middle East peace process.

The Zionist lobby in the United States places Israel's interests above those of the United States and above the requirements of peace. Peace for the Zionists would mean that the Arabs accept to give away land which Israel usurped in 1967, a thing which is not in the interests of the Zionist movement. The Senate's decision reflects Israel's determination to close all doors leading to peace and to poison the atmosphere between Amman and Washington to thwart all American peace moves.

Thursday's

Al Ra'i: Britain supports Jordan's stand

THE RECENT meeting between British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir reflected the presence of deep differences between the two sides over the Middle East. British sources said that Israel seems to be working against peace and making efforts to impede peace efforts to solve the Palestine problem. They said that Britain supports King Hussein's efforts to break the Middle East deadlock and will make this known at her Friday meeting with King Hussein.

These developments mark a defeat for Israeli diplomacy in Britain and there are no indications that this diplomacy will achieve any success in France either.

It is obvious that the current stage requires a very strong and firm stand by the European Community so that the peace efforts can achieve progress and so that the Palestinians can regain their rights. Any meaningful effort on the part of the European Community is also bound to make the United States more and more committed to establishing peace and justice.

Sawt Al Shaab: Arabs cannot remain handcuffed

THE SITUATION in the Palestinian camps of Beirut has been transformed into a colossal tragedy unprecedented in the Lebanese civil war and in the Arab World at large. Reports by the Palestinian Red Crescent from Lebanon indicate that Sabra and Shatila camps have been 90 per cent destroyed by the continuous shelling by Amal Shi'ite militia.

They said that at least 25,000 refugees have been displaced and many of those who were not killed or wounded have been reported missing. It is painful to see the sufferings of the refugees continuing at a time when the Arabs are not doing anything to save them and it is shameful for the Palestinian Salvation Front to look on without lifting a finger to try to help their brothers and sisters in the camps.

Arabs are also looking on and some of them are actually helping in the extermination of the Palestinians.

Those Palestinian fighters remaining in the camps are known to be the remnants of the Palestinian forces who escaped total annihilation by the invading Israeli forces. They do not threaten any one in Lebanon but are rather determined to defend themselves, and their families in the camps against aggression.

Israel's longest war has not come to an end despite its forced withdrawal from Lebanon

By David Rogers
Rover

TEL AVIV — Israel's invasion of Lebanon, originally expected to last three days, ended this week after three traumatic years, but the war is not really over.

No fanfare, nor ceremonial welcome are planned for the last units when they retreat across the border, just a chunk of home-baked cheese cake handed out by local settlers.

The withdrawal, timed for the June 6 anniversary of the invasion, will not be complete. Behind them, the army leave military advisers and shadowy agents to watch over a so-called security belt Israel has carved out along the frontier.

The Israeli Army, victorious in all previous wars, has never known such a bitter homecoming. Ahead lies the prospect of more fighting to protect the still vulnerable Galilee border.

In future, the threat will be nearer home. The potential enemies now are Shi'ite Muslim zealots as well as Palestinian guerrillas.

The government has cautioned the townships of north Israel that the security belt, 20 kilometres deep in places, is no guarantee against guerrilla rocket attack.

Generals and politicians of all parties accept that the war failed to establish its goal of so-called "Peace for Galilee" and that it is a matter of time before the eerie whoosh of incoming Katyusha rockets send border communities scurrying into bomb shelters.

The lesson of the Lebanon war, according to Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin, is that "no one should set a goal of total elimination of terrorism, it is unattainable."

Anguished inquests over how Israel got sucked into an unwinnable war have raged for many months.

The national consensus behind the campaign broke down in the summer of 1982 as uneasy Israelis watched nightly television clips of their air force bombing a defenceless Beirut.

In the exhaustive debate over the Lebanon debacle, there are two basic, recurring scenarios for what went wrong.

To the leftwing and moderates, it was a disastrous conception of then Defence Minister Ariel Sharon who duped the cabinet into a grandiose war aimed at driving the Syrians out of Lebanon and installing a pro-Israeli Christian strongman. Bashir Gemayal, in Beirut.

As the massive wave of Israeli armour rolled into South Lebanon, Prime Minister Menachem Begin, declared his job was to destroy Palestinian bases and drive the guerrillas 40 kilometres out of artillery range.

Within a few days however the punitive operation mushroomed into war with Syrian forces in Lebanon and Israeli troops had pushed far beyond the 40 kilometres limit to the Beirut-Damascus road.

There have been repeated allegations, strongly denied by Sharon, that the cabinet was not fully briefed and was unaware of what it was starting when it approved the invasion.

The most detailed indictment of Sharon, a book by Israeli journalist Zev Schiff and Ehud Yaari, says the government was frequently not informed about the military's plans until they had been enacted.

The rightwingers scenario puts the blame for Lebanon on the undermining influence of leftist dissenters at home and restraints imposed by the United States.

"The left made all that noise but it never opened its mouth when governments in which it was a part set out for previous wars," said Rafael Eitan, army chief of staff at the time of the invasion.

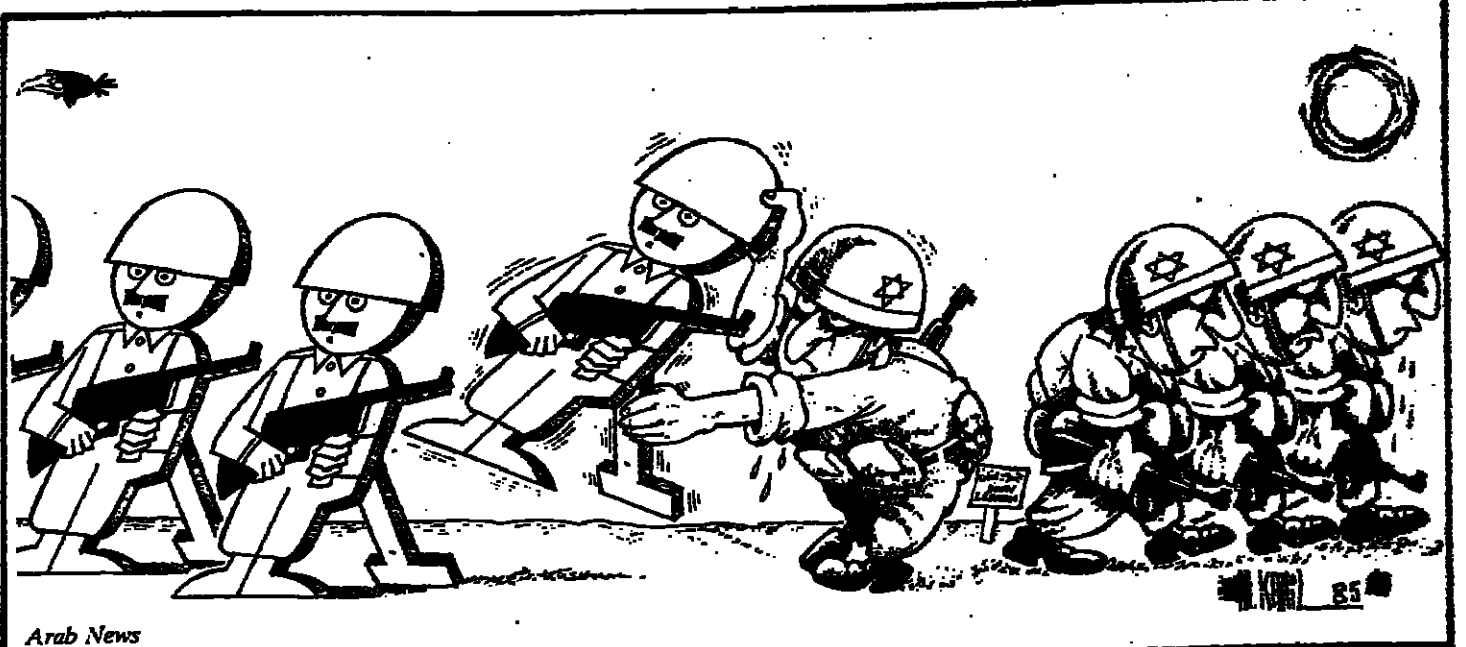
Eitan, now an ultra-nationalist member of parliament, says the turning point in Israel's fortunes came in the summer of 1983 when the army made its first pullback, evacuating the Shouf Mountains. "That was when we started losing our early gains in Lebanon," he told Reuters.

Other Israelis say the Sharon scheme to bring order to Lebanon was totally dead after the assassination of Falangist leader Bashir Gemayal in September, 1982.

It also triggered the Israeli decision to send Falangist militia into the Palestinian camps of Sabra and Shatila, where they massacred hundreds of refugees. Sharon ultimately paid for that mistake by losing his job.

For months, the rightwing 'Begin government justified the war by citing Israel's success in uprooting the Palestine Liberation Organisation and forcing PLO leader Yasser Arafat into exile.

Outgoing American Ambassador Stephen Lewis, whose verdict on the war is "a tragedy", says it might have produced benefits had a May 17, 1983 agreement between Israel and Beirut stuck.



Arab News

Invasion chronicle

The agreement was never ratified by Beirut and as the occupation dragged on, the Israeli army made new enemies among the Shi'ites in the South.

Shi'ite guerrillas, particularly suicide car bombers, inflicted a huge death toll and became the most feared opponents the Israeli army has faced.

In forcing Israel to quit Lebanon, the Shi'ites and their allies achieved in a matter of months what the combined Arab armies had not managed to do in five wars with superpower support, wrote Hersh Goodman, the Jerusalem Post defence correspondent.

After losing 654 dead and 3,800 wounded, army morale is low. Recent Israeli press articles speak of the "lebanonisation" of the military and say commanders are concerned by deteriorating ethics and soldiers' lack of consideration for human life.

Shlomo Avineri, a political scientist at the Hebrew University, says there are two lessons from Lebanon — No more wars of choice and no wars devoid of broad national consensus.

For all the internal uproar, Lebanon made little impact on the political front. The rightwing Likud bloc, which launched the invasion, lost only a few seats in last year's election and now shares power with the Labour Party.

To avoid upsetting the coalition, parliament has not ordered an inquiry into the war. Sharon, the war's architect, is again a full-cabinet minister and now talks of becoming prime minister.

The following is a chronology of Israel's most divisive war:

June 6, 1982 — Israeli troops invade Lebanon. Cabinet says operation is to "place all civilian population of the Galilee beyond the range of terrorist fire from Lebanon". Prime Minister Menachem Begin tells President Reagan army has been ordered to drive Palestinian guerrillas 40 kilometres from the international border.

June 9, 1982 — Israeli planes wipe out Syrian anti-aircraft missile batteries in eastern Lebanon after huge air battle.

June 14, 1982 — Israeli troops cut off Beirut, take control of parts of its international airport and besiege 6,000 Palestinian guerrillas trapped in the city.

July 23, 1982 — Israel launches massive air raids on Lebanese capital, trying to force evacuation of guerrillas.

Aug. 10, 1982 — Israel accepts in principle U.S.-negotiated plan for withdrawal of besieged guerrillas from Beirut to be supervised by multinational force.

Aug. 12, 1982 — As it continues to negotiate final details of guerrilla withdrawal, Israel launches air, sea and land bombardments of Beirut positions. Attacks stop after President Reagan telephones Begin and demands a halt.

Aug. 19, 1982 — Israel gives final approval to U.S. plan for guerrilla withdrawal from Beirut.

Aug. 21, 1982 — PLO guerrillas begin departure by sea.

Sept. 14, 1982 — Lebanese president-elect Bashir Gemayal

assassinated in bomb blast.

Sept. 15, 1982 — Israeli Army invades West Beirut, surrounds Palestinian refugee camps.

Sept. 16, 1982 — Israeli Defence Minister Ariel Sharon orders Lebanese Christian Falange forces in Sabra and Shatila refugee camps to clear out guerrillas. They kill hundreds of civilians.

Sept. 28, 1982 — Israeli cabinet orders judicial inquiry into massacre after huge protests in Tel Aviv against killings.

Dec. 28, 1982 — Israel and Lebanon start U.S.-mediated troop withdrawal talks.

Feb. 8, 1983 — Kahan Commission inquiry into Beirut massacre recommends dismissal of Defence Minister Sharon.

Feb. 11, 1983 — Sharon resigns defence post. Remains in cabinet as a minister-without-portfolio.

May 17, 1983 — Lebanese-Israeli accord signed calling for withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon. Syria rejects it and it is never ratified by Lebanese President Amin Gemayal.

Aug. 28, 1983 — Begin announces he plans to resign.

Sept. 4, 1983 — Israeli Army pulls out of Shouf Mountains east of Beirut and redeployes further south to Awali River.

Oct. 10, 1983 — Yitzhak Shamir named prime minister.

Oct. 23, 1983 — Suicide car bombers destroy headquarters of U.S. marine and French peacekeepers in Beirut. Total of 241 Americans and 58 Frenchmen killed.

Nov. 4, 1983 — Suicide car bomber demolishes Israeli headquarters in South Lebanon port

city of Tyre, killing 29 Israelis and 32 Arab detainees.

Dec. 20, 1983 — Mainstream PLO leader Yasser Arafat and his men depart northern Lebanon port of Tripoli by sea after battles with Syrian-backed Palestinian rebels and shelling by Israeli gunboats.

Jan. 14, 1984 — Lebanese major Saad Haddad, Israel's chief ally in South Lebanon and leader of the South Lebanon army militia, dies of cancer.

March 5, 1984 — Lebanon scraps troop withdrawal agreement with Israel.

Sept. 13, 1984 — Labour Party leader Shimon Peres forms nine-party coalition government after inconclusive July national elections.

Jan. 14, 1985 — Israeli cabinet adopts three-stage troop withdrawal plan following breakdown of new talks with Lebanon.

Feb. 16, 1985 — Israeli army completes first phase of pullback, moving out of Sidon area.

Feb. 20, 1985 — Israel launches "iron fist" policy against Shi'ite villages in South Lebanon following mounting attacks against its soldiers.

March 10, 1985 — Suicide Shi'ite car bomber kills 12 Israeli soldiers at international border.

April 11, 1985 — Army pulls out of central sector town of Nabatiye, bringing northern settlements into rocket range.

April 24, 1985 — Israeli troops pull out of eastern Lebanon and deploy in self-declared security zone.

Israeli media wailed when an Arab tried to buy a 'Jewish' piece of land

By Israel Shahak

RECENT EVENTS in Kfar Tavor, a relatively old Jewish village in the Galilee, illustrate the basic attitude of Israeli Jews to land. Since Kfar Tavor was founded when Palestine was still a part of the Ottoman Empire, its farmers own their land, unlike the great majority of Jewish farmers in Israel, who rent it from the Jewish National Fund of the World Zionist Organisation. Consequently, they are legally free to sell their land to whoever they like. But when two of them decided to sell a small part of it to Arabs from the neighbouring village of Shibli, the Israeli media treated it as a national disaster.

To understand this better, one needs to know the basic form of Jewish education in Israel (and before the creation of Israel, in Palestine from the 1920) which, from a very tender age, is tantamount to brainwashing. It is explained to, and accepted by, all

government used state funds to prevent a land sale in Britain to one of Her Majesty's subjects, simply because he happened to be Jewish? Yet in Israel such a discriminatory procedure seems to be not only normal, but praiseworthy in the eyes of most Jews, including all the left-wing Zionists, making the attitude towards racism and discrimination over land the greatest dividing line between all Zionists and anti-Zionists.

It is important to note that exactly the same sort of scandal is caused by the attempts of other non-Jews to buy "Jewish land" in Israel. About a year ago a Protestant sect — which actually supported the concept of a "Greater Israel" stretching from the Nile to the Euphrates, blessed the invasion of Lebanon and justified the Sabra and Shatila massacres — wanted to buy some "Jewish land" near Jerusalem in order to build a hostel for its pilgrims. The sale was

as were killings of Muslims in chronicles of the Crusades, or the execution of heretics in reports of the Inquisition. Below a very thin veneer, Israel is neither a modern state nor a society in which equality of citizens is an accepted norm.

It is important to note that exactly the same sort of scandal is caused by the attempts of other non-Jews to buy "Jewish land" in Israel. About a year ago a Protestant sect — which actually supported the concept of a "Greater Israel" stretching from the Nile to the Euphrates, blessed the invasion of Lebanon and justified the Sabra and Shatila massacres — wanted to buy some "Jewish land" near Jerusalem in order to build a hostel for its pilgrims. The sale was

Jews, but Jews from all over the world, while excluding totally all Palestinians. There are, of course, many other cases of land passing into the hands of the state through legalised robbery — most of the land in the USA was expropriated from the Red Indians — but a modern state, even when founded on an evil past, usually tries through its constitution or a system of laws based on the concept of equality of its citizens to assure a just use of the land under its jurisdiction. What if Jews in America were excluded from buying or renting federal land, while Christians were encouraged to do so?

What if Jews in America were excluded from buying or renting federal land, while Christians were encouraged to do so?

blocked by the combined forces of the Jerusalem municipality, the Israeli Land Authority and the government, regardless of the threats of the sect's headquarters in Switzerland to reduce their support for Israel, and regardless of their fearful reminders that they had supported all of Israel's actions in 1982 "sometimes almost alone in Western Europe". There are many other such cases, and it is essential to emphasise that the racism embodied in the concept of "Jewish land" is not directed especially against the Palestinians or the Arabs in general; it is really directed against all non-Jews, most of whom in Palestine happen to be Arab.

Besides social and governmental pressure this racism has been institutionalised in Israel and the occupied territories by means of two legal stratagems: the concept of state lands, and that of lands owned or administered by the Jewish National Fund. It is assumed by all Zionists, and legally approved by the Israeli courts, that lands owned by the state of Israel, whether in Israel or in the occupied territories, are solely for the benefit of Jews; not just Israeli

The second component of this system of de facto apartheid is the Jewish National Fund (JNF). The JNF owns about 17 per cent of the area of Israel, while all the other "state lands" in Israel are administered under its rules. In all of this combined area, which amounts to 90-94 per cent of the total area of Israel, this racism is enforced to the utmost extent. Not only are sales of land to non-Jews impossible, but land is rented to Jews only on the strictest racist conditions: it is forbidden not only to sub-let it to non-Jews or to transfer water rights to them, but even to allow non-Jewish Israeli citizens to sleep on the land. This and many other racist conditions are enforceable by law, and are being so enforced. Not long ago a Jewish farmer from another village in the Galilee, situated on "state land" and not on private lands as with Kfar Tavor, was sentenced to the loss of part of his lease for the "crime" of allowing some Palestinian workers, Israeli citizens who were employed in picking his fruit, to sleep in his barn — Middle East International, London.

Iran boosts contacts, but no war end seen

By Ian MacKenzie
Rover

KUWAIT — Iran has expanded contacts with Iraq's allies among Gulf Arab states, but officials and diplomats in the region see no quick end to the Gulf war.

"There must be an end to this war, but when?" Kuwait's Foreign Ministry under-secretary, Sulaiman Majed Al-Shaheen, said in an interview.

Saudi Arabian Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al-Faisal last month visited Tehran, and veteran Iranian diplomat Ali Shams Ardakan later went to four other Gulf Arab states.

Iranian diplomats say Tehran's message is that it wants good relations with its Arab neighbours, despite the war which started in September 1980.

"Bilateral relations are one thing, the war is another. They are two different things that should not be mixed," Iran's charge d'affaires in Kuwait, Mohammad Reza Bagheri, told Reuters after Ardakan's tour, which also took in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Qatar and Bahrain.

"In this connection, we think the war should be limited to the ground and should not be extended to the waters of the Gulf or to other countries in the area," Mr. Bagheri said.

At the same time, Iran is mindful that Arab states, especially Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, have provided Iraq with hefty financial backing for its war effort.

"Others are saying they would like to have peace, but it would be better for them to end their financial help and then there would not be a problem... Iraq would not be able to stand and maintain the war," Mr. Bagheri said.

During the recent contacts, the Arab side apparently made no headway in finding an acceptable solution to the conflict.

Some diplomats in the region see the possibility of a more flexible Iranian approach to problems such as the amount of war reparations Tehran has demanded.

But Iran remains adamant on what it sees as the central issue — the removal of Iraq government.

"Although we do not like to have the war, we are not going to accept an imposed peace."

Iraq, meanwhile, said it has escalated its air attacks on Iranian targets, including Tehran, in what diplomats see as an attempt to break a "no war, no peace" situation. Iran has retaliated with strikes on Baghdad and other places.

Diplomats say Baghdad's basic policy is "either all out war or comprehensive peace", making use of Iraq's air superiority in a bid to force Iran to talk peace.

On the fringe of the war and hoping for a solution are members of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) — Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the UAE.

"The GCC, and especially Kuwait — within occasional earshot of the southern battlefield — have more than a direct interest in stopping this dirty war," the Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry official Mr. Shaheen, said.

"We feel the Iraqi side is ready to give different ideas, is ready to cooperate with all international bodies, ready to move," he added.

"We ask the Iranian side to be flexible in its demands," he said. "The circumstances prove that nobody can win, so the question is, till what time will this war continue?"

"We told them (Iran) plainly, clearly, we are ready to cooperate in whatever Iran seeks in trying to find an end to the war... We will keep on trying," Mr. Shaheen said.

But he also noted that all diplomatic moves, either on a bilateral or international level, so far had met a dead end.

This includes efforts by the U.N., the Islamic Conference Organisation and the Non-Aligned Movement.

U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar said after visiting Baghdad and Tehran in April he believed the world body currently was the only hope for a settlement.

The U.N. Security Council said on April 25 it was ready "at the appropriate moment" to invite both sides to "take part in a renewed examination of all aspects of the conflict".

Ramadan depraves programmes?

By John Boteler

I DON'T know why, perhaps the stresses and strains of Ramadan are beginning to show, but whatever the reason, Channel 6 is looking distinctly depraved this week. If you find that a bit unlikely, just bear with me. For starters, there's tonight, "Vietnam" at 8.30 is all about the mass bombing, and resultant death and mutilation, inflicted by the U.S. Air Force on North Vietnam. I know, this should have been on last week. "Guerilla Society", which we saw last week, is in fact episode 13, and so should not have been on till next month. But at least it will help to show up the relative pointlessness of the continual dumping of high explosive, napalm and agent orange with which we are to be entertained tonight. Last week also enforced the fact that this was a war that America could never have hoped to win. The U.S. public was getting increasingly restive and antagonistic towards the conflict as it lasted beyond five years and began to consume the whole of the decade; the Vietnamese thought nothing of a war that could last for half a century. Whole generations were born, grew up and died underground, in the troglodyte cities that they built. "Vietnam", though, is merely a light appetiser for the rest of the week. Tonight's feature film at 10.15 is "The French Connection II", with Gene Hackman again starring as Popeye Doyle, whom we all warmed to a couple of months ago. I can do no better than quote from Leslie Halliwell, film critic extraordinaire: "Sleazy, virtually plotless and unattractive sequel which rises to a few good action moments but is bogged down by bad language, unconvincing characterisation and an interminable and irrelevant 'cold turkey' sequence". Obviously a film not to be missed: a veritable must.

Tomorrow starts off with "Allo Allo" at 8.30. Now this is horrific not so much in its content, but more in its lack of such. OK, last week had one truly comic and inspired moment, with the tailor from London giving fittings to the German officers, and it also has the merit of being a continuous story, but otherwise its "comedy" tag is running dangerously close to a prosecution under the Trade Description Act. This week Rene gets captured on his mission, and is threatened with torture. Yawn. At 9.10 there's another episode

of "The History of Television", and a study of how politicians use the media, and especially its news reporting, for their own ends. But surely there is a snag here. Presumably, if the programme is to have any relevance, it will show this government manipulation in its modern context, and how it is achieved by the present day masters, Thatcher and Reagan. But if it does do this, then their control of television as a self-serving tool is obviously not that successful. And if they don't, then the programme won't be doing what it sets out to do, a tricky one, that. "Chicago Story" continues its happy existence at 10.15 (I hope). Last week all our various heroes were in full flood. Flat-foot Joe happily managed not to shoot anyone, but only because he was beaten to the draw by the irascible McCormick. (That's not his real name, but there are too many characters in this to remember all their names without the help of a large computer, so McCormick he stays.) Having filed the slimy villain with as many wiles as the proverbial sieve, he explained his actions as the results of his getting tired hanging about. Obviously even more lethal out of a car than he ever was in one. The hospital doctors spent a lot of time arguing — the younger one accusing the older one of negligence in discharging a patient too early. If they had only taken a minute off to discuss the matter, they would have discovered that the patient in question, poor suffering My Lin (or something to that effect) was not discharged but dragged out by her cousin and "protector". My Lin disposed of her cousin with the traditional blunt instrument, and was hauled up in front of the beak for murder. She was acquitted with a hearted Lou, her attorney. Quite why, I am at a loss to explain. All the evidence was against her, and Lou's defence amounted to "Aw, shucks, give her a chance". But in winning the case, Lou not only continued to best his friend and rival the district attorney, but happily continued the premise of American court-room sagas that all the accused are poor, oppressed and Persil-white innocent, and that truth and justice will always prevail against all the odds in the land of the free, thus securing the programme firmly in the realm of pure fantasy. But remember, arch baddie Victor Kon-

abe is still safe. He may be in court for fraud and being nasty to his employees, but no-one knows about his involvement in murder, drug-dealing and baby-selling. The most he will get is five years for the present charge, which rap he will probably beat, and so future episodes will evolve around the motto "Get Konabe". We shall see.

On balance, the weekend looks pretty mild, but for the rest of the week all hell breaks loose. The bodies are piling up at a terrifying rate in "The Atlanta Child Murders", (Thursday, 9.10), and "Maelstrom", (Monday, 9.10), is about to erupt into a swelter of murder, madness, suicide, scandal and all-round sin. The mild Herr Doktor and the kind and generous brother and sister we met last week are obviously too good and gentle to be true, and any day now we are likely to witness them indulging in dark satanic rites under the full moon with the sinister collection of dolls that Catherine stumbled upon at the end of the first instalment. And there's still the oddball female in sixties clothes to make an appearance. "Maelstrom" is preceded by a new series of "Tales of the Unsuspected", which is frequently bad for the nerves, at 8.30, and followed at 10.15 by "Murder She Wrote".

The pace really begins to hot up on Tuesday. "Shroud for a Nightingale", (9.10), makes me fervently hope I never have to go near a hospital in my life because if I do, that life is liable to be terminated at very short notice indeed. Not only are there two, (or possibly three), murder victims cluttering up the grounds, but Mrs. Dettinger had such an awful (and as yet undisclosed) tale to tell about "one of the sisters" that even egotistical Courtenay-Briggs was at a loss for words and looking green about the gills at its close. Inspector Dalgleish is getting sterner and harder each week, but this is understandable, surrounded as he is by a cast of loonies, lesbians and promiscuous flirts. If this is the norm for teaching hospitals in England, then the gradual running-down of the health service had better be speeded up for the good of everyone. Tuesday's feature film at 10.15 is called "The Norliss Tapes", starring Angie Dickinson. She is accused of murdering her spunkily husband. Pretty straight-forward,

you might say, and it would be, were it not for one small fact: hubby is supposedly already dead, and has been for quite some time. A hardened investigator is put on the trail of the elusive ghost.

A bit far-fetched, you think? But wait, for the play of the week on Wednesday at 10.15, (and this week it should be just that, since at a running time of only sixty six minutes it ought to avoid being turned into play of the fortnight) is "The Story of Ruth". The story begins in London in 1977 when Ruth, recently arrived from America with her husband and three children, shows the first signs of a nervous breakdown. She is indifferent to her family and is plagued by a recurring nightmare. But what makes her symptoms so bizarre is that the apparition that persecutes her at night can also be summoned up during the day. It behaves exactly like a real person of flesh and blood whose shape, voice, touch and even smell Ruth can recognise. Even more bizarre is the fact that the menacing tormentor is far from dead — in fact he is Ruth's father who is alive and well and living in the USA. Driven to the verge of suicide, Ruth is referred to Dr. Morton Schatzman for psychotherapy at the Arbours Crisis Centre, a residential unit in a quiet London suburb. He soon learns that at the age of ten Ruth had been raped by her father. (I told you that this was sicko week on Channel 6, and I'm afraid it gets even worse). By persuading her to conjure up the apparition in his presence, Dr. Schatzman begins to show Ruth how she can control the hallucination and exorcise her father's threat. Slowly she begins to recover her sanity. Amazed by the power of Ruth's hallucinations, the doctor persuades her to take part in scientifically controlled experiments to test the degree to which they are real experiences. Ruth is encouraged to hallucinate freely, and the results reveal a truly spooky phenomenon: she produces her husband, her children, her friends, Dr. Schatzman and even herself. Under psychological and neurological tests, including eye movements and light patterns, the results are startling: these are not hallucinations, but real. Ruth is played by Connie Booth, who can perhaps be thankful that her experiences of not only acting in the zany-world of "Fawlty Towers" but in real life actually being mar-

Channel 6 preview

ried to Mr. Crazy himself, John Cleese, prepared her for this disturbing role. No sleep Wednesday night, that's for sure.

There's not much of a let-up on Thursday, either. Apart from that charming slice of entertainment "for all the family" — "The Atlanta Child Murders" — there is also Emily Bronte goes to Australia, or in other words, "Under Capricorn" at 10.15. Now, before you start, don't blame me. I was as surprised as you were to find this starting up unannounced last week. All I can say is that "Dempsy and Makepeace" must have got up to such unspeakable perversions in their last episode that it was abruptly and rightly consigned to the shredder. (Exactly what went on I shudder to think. A sweaty threesome with Spinkings?) The dashing hero of "Capricorn" meanwhile, nobly tries to rescue the beautiful alcoholic from herself, helped by the grim and dour perambulating Hulk, her ex-con husband, but thwarted at every turn by the housekeeper, so upright and pious and God fearing that she'd rather see her beloved mistress six feet under. Tres Charmant.

Not even Friday, normally so staid and polite, wholly escapes the collective compulsions and preoccupations of the week with sordid goings-on and things that go bump in the night. "The Moving Finger" sees Miss Marple getting embroiled in the truly nasty world of poison-pen letters, and its resulting concomitants: suspicion, fear, and suicide. (But of course, it's not suicide but murder). And in "Hot Pursuit" at 10.15 Jim and Kate meet a group of senior citizens, one of whom believes that Jim is the reincarnation of her dead husband! The older folks are supporting their retirement home by running a bookie service, and Jim and Kate step in when professional gamblers attempt to close their shop and eliminate the competition.

But there are a few spots during the week where sanity, calmness and placid musings strive to be heard. Next Friday night, for example, there is another absorbing discussion at 8.30, this time between Professor Masoud Hussein and Faruk Jarrar, a leading figure in the Al Aftab Foundation. The subject is the Arabic language and its influence on the Islamic nation. Culture is also served at 9.10 on Wednesday, with another episode



"Aren't you supposed to be dead?" Tuesday, 9.10

of "Hand and Eye": "Touch Wood". One of the most beautiful and rewarding materials for a craftsman to work with — not least because it is so natural and pure — wood provides us with shelter, warmth and furnishings and, in its processed form as paper, our knowledge, history and means for advancement through the recording of the last two. One slightly irritating aspect of this series is the way that the producers, the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, tends to concentrate on its home-grown artists to the exclusion of the rest of the world and to the ultimate detriment of the programme itself, but this is perhaps unnecessary carping. At least this episode promises to face up to the issue of the dangerous level of forest despoliation of which the north American continent is the chief culprit, and which, unless checked

soon, will have dire and grave consequences for the environment, the balance of nature and our futures.

Finally there is comedy, which promises to be much needed this week. Although I have no definite information confirming it, I hope that "Charles in Charge" continues its run at 8.30 on Thursdays. Excellent as this programme is, it did rather stretch one's credulity two weeks ago when it ensured us that all the participants in Lila's slumber party were fourteen year olds. Well, I suppose they could have been, if you squinted very hard. At least Scott Baio in the lead role is safe from the dangers he found himself in last Tuesday's movie "Senior Trip", where he was a rapidly degenerating drug addict. It would appear that bright, aware and vivacious offspring are the norm in

comedy series these days. At least they are showing signs of being very much in evidence in "Kate and Allie", (Tuesday, 8.30). This looks promising, on the evidence of the first episode, but it wouldn't suffer overmuch from a morose, foul-mouthed, and vicious teenage delinquent. More true to life anyway. No child in evidence in "Ever Decreasing Circles", (Wednesday, 8.30), but then Martin is such an arrested adolescent it doesn't really need one. This week Paul causes more trouble by offering interesting alternatives to the usual boring holiday plans of the residents of the close. Good on yer, son. So that's it. The week's viewing is absolutely choc-a-bloc with ghosts, madness, murder, perversions and general nastiness, but it could be a lot worse. It could have a football match.

King, Thatcher review revived peace efforts

(Continued from page 1)

another joint delegation, this time including members of the PLO. The U.S. would engage in a substantive political dialogue provided the PLO acknowledged Israel's right to exist and transmission of the PLO's willingness to do so through King Hussein was insufficient, the U.S. official said.

"It's going to have to come straight from them, it's going to have to come without being denied the next day," he said.

U.S. and Jordanian officials say no date has been set for the meeting, but Mr. Masri said he hoped it would occur within four to six weeks.

Talking to reporters Wednesday in Washington, Mr. Masri emphasised the concept of the Feb. 11 agreement between Jordan and the PLO on a common political strategy towards solving the Palestinian problem.

He said the agreement envisages a Palestinian state confederated with Jordan and the PLO has fully accepted the concept. He said the agreement was based on the PLO's acceptance of the principle of confederation without which there could be no prospects for peace in the Middle East.

"The agreement between Jordan and the PLO means there will be no independent Palestinian state," he said.

In Tunis on Thursday, Salah Khalaf, number two in PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat's Fatah

commando movement, said the PLO wanted an independent state to be declared before the announcement of the confederation.

Commenting on Mr. Masri's statement, Mr. Khalaf said "in order to conform with resolutions of the Palestine National Council, an independent state must be declared first, followed by the confederation."

On Thursday, Mr. Masri briefed U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar on King Hussein's recent talks in Washington.

Asked by a reporter whether he discussed with the secretary general any alternative to a U.N.-sponsored international conference as an umbrella for peace negotiations, Mr. Masri said: "I don't know what is meant by umbrella... there has to be a flag and the secretary general should send out the invitations. But we have not talked about this today."

He noted that an international conference was called for under a U.N. General Assembly resolution.

When asked by reporters on Thursday to elaborate on his statement on the envisaged Jordanian-Palestinian confederation, Mr. Masri said:

"If you are talking from a legal point of view, international law doesn't specify one kind of confederation. Once you come out with something, then this is an international law by itself. There are many examples of confederation. The Swiss confederation is one example. So once you establish a

fact, then it becomes a law."

Pressed whether the PLO had dropped the idea of an independent state, he said: "We said that confederation between the two countries means confederation."

Mr. Masri said the meeting between U.S. officials and the joint delegation of Jordanians and Palestinians who are not members of the PLO could happen soon, "perhaps within four to six weeks."

State Department spokesman Edward Djerejian told reporters no firm date had yet been set for the meeting, at which the U.S. team is expected to be led by Mr. Murphy.

Mr. Masri said the meeting would decide how the peace process would continue from there, but he hoped it would clear the obstacles to direct U.S.-PLO talks.

Mr. Masri said he believed the PLO would recognise Resolutions 242 and 338 in return for U.S. recognition of self-determination for the Palestinians within the context of the confederation with Jordan.

He said direct U.S.-PLO talks would clear the way for an international conference that would bring together all sides to seek peace in the Middle East.

In Paris on Friday, Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir firmly rejected the new Jordanian-Palestinian peace initiative, saying it was an attempt to force Israel to withdraw to its pre-1967 borders.

Mr. Shamir, in Paris on a private visit, said in a French television interview that nobody in Israel could accept such an eventuality and it was a "national priority" for his government to avert this "danger."

Mr. Shamir, leader of the right-wing Likud party, made it clear he would firmly resist the Arab initiative when he took over from Labour Party leader Shimon Peres as prime minister in October next year under a coalition agreement.

"I believe that when I assume power, this question will be resolved and this danger will be averted," he said.

Robert Pelltrau, deputy assistant U.S. secretary of state for Middle East affairs, said in Paris on Wednesday it was not clear whether the PLO was accepting Israel's right to exist and was envisaging a confederation with Jordan.

"The Hussein-Arafat plan for joint action, even though it has a number of uncertainties in it, nevertheless must be considered a very positive step forward," he said.

Diplomatic sources said Mr. Pelltrau was seeking West European support for the initiative.

King Hussein said Thursday that his talks in Washington were designed to serve the Palestinian cause and were in line with the interests of the Palestinian and Jordanian people.

In a cable he sent to Akef Al Fayed, speaker of the Lower House of Parliament, King Hussein emphasised that his current efforts are aimed at implementing the provisions of the Feb. 11 accord.

The King voiced his appreciation to Mr. Fayed for his cable which contained parliament's support and backing for the King's endeavours for peace.

King Hussein pledged to pursue efforts to protect the Jordanian-Palestinian family, and referred to those shedding the blood of the Palestinians as "treacherous and hypocrites who fight alongside the enemies of the Arabs and continue to sow seeds of dissension among the Arab and Muslim nations."

"Let not be despair among our ranks and no discouragement by these actions, but rather more determination to confront the challenges and the injustice with the purpose of serving the future generations, and for the nation's victory," the King said.

Gandhi signals end to strain in ties with Paris

(Continued from page 1)

Switzerland. Indian officials say the positioning of Paris between Moscow and Washington reflects the value India attaches to France's efforts to follow an independent foreign policy.

Mr. Gandhi, accompanied by his defence, trade and culture ministers, said several major defence contracts were near completion but refused to give details.

Mr. Gandhi was due to inaugurate a lush spectacle marking the start of a year-long Indian festival in Paris later Friday.

Speaking at a news conference in Cairo before leaving for France on Thursday, Mr. Gandhi renewed criticism of the U.S. "Star Wars" space defence plan, which he said he doubted could be merely defensive.

He also said prospects did not seem very good for ending the Gulf war between Iran and Iraq, and said India supported calls for an international conference on Middle East peace.

Mr. Gandhi doubted if "Star Wars" could be just defensive. "One side produces a defensive weapon and it is countered by... the other side. It could be turned into an offensive weapon to bring us close to a brink," he said.

Mr. Gandhi, in talks with Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak, had considered how to pursue various initiatives on ending the Gulf war including efforts by the Non-Aligned Movement, of which India and Egypt are co-founders and Mr. Gandhi is now chairman.

India was trying to persuade both sides to seek peace, he said.

"We find that they have taken a softer position, but it is still very difficult. We have not had a response good enough to have the feeling that a solution is ready."

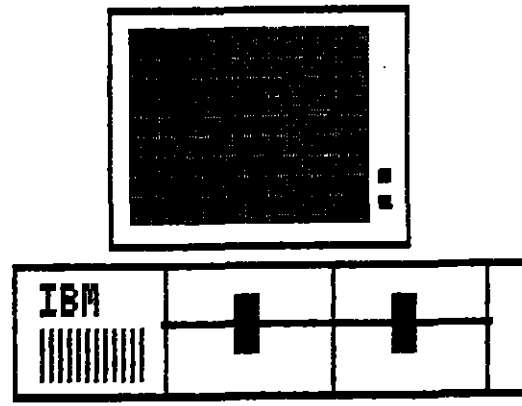
On the Middle East, Mr. Gandhi said: "We feel it is impossible to come to any solution without the PLO (Palestine Liberation Organisation). We feel the PLO is the sole representative of the Palestinian people."

Asked if India favoured Soviet participation in a Middle East peace conference, Mr. Gandhi, who had said Delhi's relations with Moscow were "flourishing," replied: "It is up to the countries directly involved in the area to sort themselves out."

But he added India favoured "a Middle East peace conference to be attended by all the parties concerned."

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McEnroe, Connors out; Lendl, Wilander to final

PARIS (AP) — Defending champion Ivan Lendl and 1982 winner Mats Wilander breezed into the men's final of the French tennis championships Friday with straight sets victories over Jimmy Connors and John McEnroe.

The French Open kept its reputation as a graveyard for American male players as Lendl, the no. 2 seed, crushed Connors the 32-year-old no. 3, 6-2, 6-3, 6-1, while Wilander upset no. 1 seed McEnroe 6-1, 7-5, 7-5.

No American has won the men's title since Tony Trabert's triumph in 1955.

McEnroe, who lost the last six games of his semifinal against Wilander, partly put his surprise defeat by the no. 4 seed down to Lendl's stunningly quick trouncing of Connors.

"The first match went a lot faster than I thought, and I just wasn't ready," McEnroe said.

"Also I thought it was going to rain, and I didn't think I was going to have to go out on to the court so soon."

McEnroe also was continually troubled by the wind and the swirling red clay of Roland Garros.

He said later: "The only lesson I learned this year was that I wish the French were played indoors. I would have a lot better chance under conditions that were fair to all the players. That's not, sour grapes — that's just a wish and it won't happen in my career."

After losing the opening set in 24 minutes, McEnroe had eight chances to break the Swede's serve in the second, and two set points in the third.

At one stage in the third set McEnroe held a 5-1 lead. But he failed to hold his game together and allowed Wilander back to claim the final berth in straight sets.

Although he smashed a racquet in frustration, McEnroe never let his short-fused temper boil over during his 2-hour-41-minute defeat.

He was, however, clearly unsettled by the Swede's aggression

as Wilander again showed signs that he is beginning to move away from his steady baseline game and become more adventurous.

Wilander said afterwards: "This is the best match I have played against him (McEnroe) since the Australian Open (in 1983, when he beat the American in the semifinal).

Looking ahead to his meeting with Lendl in the Sunday's final, Wilander said: "Right now he's playing his best tennis. He's reached his top level and I don't think you can play better tennis than he's playing now."

"I have to be patient and move to the net. I may not be going in as confident as against McEnroe, but I think I have a chance."

Connors was bidding to reach his first ever French Open final at the fourth semifinal attempt.

But he never cracked the defenses of the 25-year-old Czech no. 2 seed in a match that lasted two minutes short of two hours and began in gusting wind and steady rain.

The 32-year-old American left-hander, who has reached the semifinal four times, was caught cold as the court-side temperature dropped 15 degrees Celsius (27 Fahrenheit) after 12 days of blazing sunshine.

After holding his serve in the opening game, Connors lost the next five during a spell in which he won only three points out of 22. Although he held for 5-2, Lendl clinched the set after 25 minutes of uninspired play.

Lendl continued to feed on the Connors errors as the American tried to force the play.



RAMTHA VS. AHLI Ahli goalkeeper Izzat Hashim (right) repels an attack by Ramtha's midfielder Khalid Zoubi in a match played Wednesday night at Al Hussein Youth City stadium in which Ramtha beat Ahli 4-3 by penalty kicks after a 120-minute draw-game. (Photo by Yousef Alan)

nessday night at Al Hussein Youth City stadium in which Ramtha beat Ahli 4-3 by penalty kicks after a 120-minute draw-game. (Photo by Yousef Alan)

Spinks retains title

LAS VEGAS (R) — Michael Spinks, in what may prove to be his last light-heavyweight title fight, made his 10th consecutive successful defence by pummeling challenger Jim MacDonald for eight rounds here Thursday night.

Referee Davey Pearl called a halt to the scheduled 12-round bout at 1:30 of the eighth round following Spinks' third knockdown of the match against the game but outclassed challenger.

Spinks has now won 27 fights without a loss, finishing 19 opponents within the distance. The seventh-ranked MacDonald, 26, suffered his first defeat after 16 victories against unheralded foes.

The 28-year-old Spinks, largely untested during his reign as light-heavyweight champion, said before the bout that he was considering moving up to the heavyweight division.

The message, apparently, got

through. Immediately after his victory on Thursday night, Spinks received a telegram from International Boxing Federation champion Larry Holmes offering him \$700,000 to fight in August.

Spinks, however, scoffed at the amount of money offered. "They offered me a million and a quarter earlier this year," he said.

A bout between Spinks and the undefeated Holmes had been planned for last May 20 before problems surrounding financial arrangements scuttled the fight.

Spinks certainly looked ready to take on stiffer competition on Thursday night.

He scored at will against his fellow-American challenger, landing freely with left hooks, right crosses and right upper cuts to the head and body. MacDonald scored no more than a half dozen solid punches, none of which hurt the champion.

FIFA imposes worldwide ban on English clubs

LONDON (R) — Shocked English soccer officials met Friday to prepare a protest against the indefinite worldwide ban on their clubs imposed by the International Football Federation (FIFA).

Thursday's further punishment for the Brussels soccer riot made the English the "lepers of football" in the words of Bert Millichip, chairman of the Football Association (FA).

But English clubs currently on tour abroad could play scheduled games, FIFA spokesman Guido Tognoni told Reuters in Zurich.

Clubs and administrators were shocked by the FIFA decision which followed an earlier indefinite ban from European club

competition because of last week's riot when 38 people died in a stampede blamed principally on English supporters.

"Some sort of protest will be made but this is uncharted territory and we are discussing exactly what form it should take," an FA spokesman said.

Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher has taken a firm line, welcoming both the European and the world bans as an opportunity for the sport to put its house in order.

But soccer chiefs felt the sanctions had gone too far.

The FA spokesman said English clubs had played in 63 tournaments and 160 individual friendly matches outside England in

the last year, gaining revenue and valuable practice.

"We are talking about a lot of football and all these matches went off without a single serious incident," he said.

Announcing its ban on Thursday, FIFA, the world's top football body, said the ban would conform to that imposed on English clubs in Europe a week ago by the European Football Union (UEFA).

The football union has set no time limit and officials say English clubs could be exiled from European competition from one to 10 years.

"All clubs and teams under the jurisdiction of the Football Association, London, are suspended forthwith from all international football activity," a FIFA statement said.

The English national team was not affected by the decision. Also exempt from the ban were non-professional and youth football teams. Unlike the UEFA ban, the federation's sanctions did include friendly games.

English Football Association secretary Ted Croker said it would not be taking immediate steps to recall the English team West Ham, currently playing in Japan. Other top English teams were also due to play in Australia, West Germany and Sweden.

FIFA called its measures provisional. "A definitive decision can only be taken when the results of the investigations and the decisions of the competent UEFA disciplinary body are concluded," it said.

UEFA's control and disciplinary committee meets in Zurich.

on June 20 and the union's general secretary Hans Bangerter has been quoted as saying it could impose sanctions on Liverpool as well as the Italian club Juventus and the organizers of the Brussels match, the Belgian football union.

Juventus was playing Liverpool in the final when the English club's supporters rioted, a wall collapsed and 38 people died.

FIFA general secretary Joseph Blatter told a news conference that if UEFA banned the English national team from European competitions, "We could also extend our decision."

Asked about England playing in the World Cup, Blatter said: "We have only taken provisional measures where UEFA has already acted. Any decision must wait until the June 20 sanctions."

Blatter said the ruling did not affect English clubs playing on English soil. He also said the FIFA ruling could not formally be appealed against but clubs could ask for reconsideration.

Blatter said he believed UEFA

had taken the right decision in banning English clubs from its own European competitions. He said he wanted to see an end to the tragedies which had recently overshadowed football.

He referred not only to the riot at the Brussels match but also the fire at the Bradford stadium in England in which more than 50 people died and deaths at a football match in Mexico.

The federation also launched an appeal for "all football friends everywhere" to exercise decency and sportsmanship.

It asked for help in the struggle to combat violence, urging all those connected with the organization of football matches to cooperate closely with the authorities and police services.

Thursday's ban is not without precedent. In 1982, it extended worldwide a two-year ban on North Korea at the request of the Asian football federation for incidents at an international match in New Delhi.

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	Cinema CONCORD Tel: 44092-44280 677420 SAVAGE ISLANDS (Colour) Performances 3:30, 9:00, 10:45	Cinema AL-HUSSEIN Tel: 22117 THE SECRET OF THE DEADLY SHAWLINE (Colour) Performances: 12-3 - 5:30-8	Cinema RAINBOW Tel: 625155 THE KILLING FIELDS 3:30, 5:30, 8:15, 10:45	Cinema OPERA Tel: 875573 PORKY II 3:30, 5:30, 9:00, 10:45 Abdali, behind ALIA offices	Cinema PALESTINE Tel: 22117 1- "DON" 2- THE WAR MACHINE (Colour) Performances: 12-3-7	Cinema RAGHADAN Tel: 22188 ZAMEER (Indian) (Colour) Performances: 12-3-5:30-8	Philadelphia Ali baba and the thieves forty "Arabic movie" Shows at 3:30, 9:00, 10:45 TEL. 3444-3448
	<p>***** Cine-Theatre *****</p>						

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.

One sterling	1.2725/35	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.3700/10	Canadian dollars
	3.0610/25	West German marks
	3.4490/4520	Dutch guilders
	2.5730/50	Swiss francs
	61.67/72	Belgian francs
	9.3275/3375	French francs
	1953.04/0	Italian lire
	248.65/75	Japanese yen
	8.8675/8775	Swedish crowns
	8.8275/8375	Norwegian crowns
	10.9800/50	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	314.85/315.35	U.S. dollars

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE

LONDON (R) — Share prices closed sharply easier with reports of a cut in oil prices by Abu Dhabi, a sell-off in the electrical sector and the pending offer for sale of Abbey Life, all combining to push market indices down sharply, dealers said. At 1430 GMT the FTSE 100 index was down 11.4 at 1310.6.

Operators were reluctant to part with funds ahead of next Wednesday's flotation of Abbey Life which is expected to raise some £504 million through the sale of shares at 180p each. STC fell 10p to 150 after a brokers profits downgrading. Thorn EMI shed 23p to 439 and Plessey dipped 4p to 134. Golds were easier and North Americans were mixed. Oils continued weak after reports that Abu Dhabi had cut some oil prices, but selective cheap buying took some issues of the lows. B.P. was 5p off at 520 after 518 and Shell lost the same amount at 690 after 688.

The collapse of the Overseas Trust Bank in Hong Kong pushed foreign banks lower, but other Hong Kong shares traded in London moved off the early lows in technical reaction to the sell-off on the home market.

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY, JUNE 8, 1985

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The morning is good for continuing with the build-up of progressive and original ideas which were yours the past two days, so come to decisions about them this morning.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Be sure you know what you want to accomplish in the morning, and then make your plans to gain aims wisely.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Get in the outside world early and get much done for which you have little time during work days.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Hit on the interesting philosophy of life on which to best operate in the future, and then see a bigwig who can help you.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Handle duties wisely in the morning, and then you can keep any promises you have made before.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Be with a partner and complete that contract in the morning; work on details later. Outside situation should be studied.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Anything that needs your attention can be handled early, and then you can plan the future wisely with your partners.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Morning should be spent at fun or sports, and later you can get duties handled well. Avoid heavy expenditure of money.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Try to understand any problems that kin have, and cheer them up; help them to solve problems wisely.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) A good morning to run errands and make visits that are important. Enjoy family at home and feel content.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Be modern in handling monetary affairs in the morning, and later study in to periodicals that give good suggestions.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Plan how best to gain personal wishes in the morning, and then do the work required for such purpose.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Now you understand what should be done in the days ahead in order to gain your fondest wishes. Then get in touch with friends.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY ... he or she will be very gregarious and want to meet as many persons as possible, which is good, since fine associations can be made that will be helpful throughout the lifetime. The waning years will be rather quiet and very little money can be made, so teach to save early in life.

THE Daily Crossword by Diane C. Baldwin

ACROSS

- 1 Cephops
- 2 Sifted land
- 3 Inuit
- 4 Open Roman name
- 5 S.A. capital
- 6 Part of NFL
- 7 Unsettling
- 8 Soviet river
- 9 Wild cat
- 10 Crossed kin
- 11 Female rabbit
- 12 Snake skin
- 13 Piece of fabric
- 14 Hair style
- 15 Barbecuable, old style
- 16 Movie title
- 17 Next modified
- 18 by environment
- 19 Weekend challenge
- 20 Halls of
- 21 Sails
- 22 Breed of
- 23 Heart cattle
- 24 Southern sports complex
- 25 One who hoards
- 26 Again!
- 27 Sock feature
- 28 Present
- 29 Veranda
- 30 Paper handle
- 31 Salsa's cry
- 32 Whino relative
- 33 Troglodyte
- 34 Predatory bird
- 35 Related
- 36 Hold in check
- 37 Camelot lady
- 38 Put off

DOWN

- 1 Sinner
- 2 Alexian
- 3 Marjorie
- 4 Fish treasure
- 5 Bird faraway
- 6 Ship away
- 7 Mario's money
- 8 "I met" with
- 9 Mrs. — of "The
- 10 Rover's warning
- 11 Versand
- 12 Lotus
- 13 Puddle
- 14 Negative
- 15 Stuck
- 16 Mongrel
- 17 HRE emperor
- 18 Wren heath
- 19 In addition
- 20 Noted violin
- 21 The Siren
- 22 Little —
- 23 Norse god
- 24 Singing Pines
- 25 Autocrat
- 26 Old man: Gar.
- 27 Expensive
- 28 Junior to
- 29 Sailer
- 30 Not tried as yet
- 31 Loaded with minerals, old style
- 32 Marine signal
- 33 Amuse
- 34 Sate
- 35 422
- 36 Grains
- 37 Played (with)
- 38 Vandyke site
- 39 Fr. entree
- 40 Dandelion
- 41 Ring gem
- 42 S.A. hero
- 43 Squirrel's nest

UAE commission decries 'big vacuum', urges reforms

ABU DHABI (R) — A joint commission of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) cabinet and its appointed parliament has criticised the seven-emirate federation's rulers for lack of political resolve and urged them to adopt sweeping economic reforms.

In a report published Thursday in the newspaper Al Khaleej, the commission said the UAE was suffering from a lack of political leadership that was crippling efforts to cope with an economic downturn caused by lower oil revenues.

It urged the imposition of new taxes and spending controls, settlement of overdue contractors' bills and protection for UAE firms.

"The current economic problem basically goes back to the absence of political resolve and constant monitoring of economic problems, so that matters have continually deteriorated to a highly dangerous degree," the report said.

Falling oil prices and production have cut UAE oil revenue almost in half since 1981, resulting in near stagnation in the key construction sector and a slowdown in trade.

The report decried what it called a "big vacuum" in top leadership and noted that the UAE's highest authority, the Supreme Council, had failed to hold regular meetings.

The council, composed of the rulers of the seven emirates, last met in June 1984. It is now scheduled to meet on June 30 to discuss the report, informed sources said.

"Only the Supreme Council holds the cure to the uncertain economic situation and can rid the country of its fierce effects, which every home and person feel," the report said.

It recommended that each emirate contribute to the federal budget, now financed 80 per cent by Abu Dhabi and 20 per cent by Dubai, and that it be increased by 10 per cent to create a special reserve.

The 1984 federal budget projected a deficit of 4.3 billion dirhams (\$1.2 billion) which bankers said was financed by a combination of local borrowing and payment delays. The report said the delays were burdening the private sector with high-interest loans.

Other proposals included the creation of a federal tax department and payment of international aid in kind rather than cash, and creation of a local stock market.

The commission was set up by the UAE president, Sheikh Zaid bin Sultan Al Nahayyan, the ruler of Abu Dhabi, to review the federation's economic problems.

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Rift widens to agree new global trade negotiations

GENEVA (R) — Major developing countries listed their conditions Thursday for holding new world trade talks, sought by the United States, the European Community and Japan, in a document indicating sharp North-South differences.

The six-page paper giving the demands was presented at a full council meeting of the 90-nation General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), whose members dominate world trade.

The industrialised countries have called for senior level preparatory talks this summer in what would be the eighth major trade round since the World War II.

The document said developing countries would accept a new round to negotiate only on trade in manufactured and semi-processed goods, natural resource products and agriculture "with particular emphasis... on the latter".

Industrialised countries, particularly the U.S., have said a new round should include talks on high-technology and the service sector, which includes insurance, tourism and banking.

The document criticised the industrialised nations for repeatedly calling for a new round when "the objectives and agenda for such a round seem far from clear".

The developing countries also called for action on a several points before any negotiations could start, including a halt to new restrictive trade and rolling-back measures already adopted.

Among the more difficult requests was one for a "categorical and unconditional commitment" by importing countries to phase out the so-called Multi-Fibre Agreement (MFA).

The MFA protects traditional textile countries, such as Britain and the U.S., from the newly emerging textile industries in Asia. The MFA must be renegotiated by July next year.

Brazilian ambassador Mr. Paulo Nogueira Batista and Indian ambassador Mr. Shirirang Purushottam Shukla, who are the informal leaders of the group, told reporters the request for a senior officials meeting this summer was made only Wednesday.

Representatives would discuss the proposal with their governments before the next GATT council meeting in mid-July, they said.

Prospects dim for easing U.S.-EC tensions

Meanwhile, prospects for an easing in trans-Atlantic trade tensions appeared remote Thursday after senior officials from Washington and Brussels said they would not change their conflicting positions on subsidised agricultural sales.

U.S. Agriculture Secretary John Block and Brussels Farm Commissioner Frans Andriessen said at a conference on U.S. European ties that a significant change in the Community's farm export subsidies system was unlikely.

Mr. Block added that Washington was going ahead aggressively with a \$2 billion programme to recapture farm export markets lost to the Community and other exporters.

The first move under the programme was announced earlier this week when Washington said it was selling one million tonnes of

cut-price wheat to Algeria, a traditional French market.

European farm groups reacted angrily, warning of a possible trans-Atlantic trade war.

Mr. Block, citing pressure from Congress for the scheme, said the loss by U.S. in the past five years was politically intolerable.

Mr. Peter Murphy, U.S. ambassador to the world trade body GATT, said the programme was launched in response to the Boan summit.

He was referring to French President Francois Mitterrand's refusal to endorse opening a new round of GATT trade liberalisation talks for fear it might include the Community's farm subsidy system.

President Reagan has called for talks to deflect some of the protectionist pressures in Congress. U.S. officials said, adding that these pressures were likely to mount over coming months.

Mr. Block said the Community was to blame, at least in part, for some of the American farmers' problems.

"We respect the European Community's efforts to help its farmers, but not when the burden is shifted to other countries through sales lost to subsidised competition, restricted access to the European Community market, and the downward price effects of European Community over-production and subsidised exports."

Mr. Andriessen rejected this claim, arguing that the Community system was compatible with GATT rules and obligations originally formulated to suit the needs of American farmers.

He said Washington was making a scapegoat of the Community, whose main fault was that it openly subsidised its agriculture.

Bankers' meeting to focus on world economic dangers

ZURICH (R) — Leading central bankers gathered in Switzerland this weekend to look at ways of keeping the world economic recovery afloat and avoiding a return to recession.

The bankers came to Basel for the annual meeting of the Bank for International Settlements (BIS), known as the central bankers' central bank, with a wide range of problems to chew on.

These include Latin America's debt mountain, the stability of some parts of the U.S. banking system, currency market turbulence and chronic unemployment in industrialised countries.

The bankers say they have learned to cope with these matters, which in past years generated an air of crisis at BIS gatherings, but steps now have to be taken to prevent them from blowing up again.

Speaking privately, they say one of their biggest fears is a sudden tumble in the dollar, after its long-running show of strength on the foreign exchanges.

The dollar's record-breaking run annoyed trading partners and debtor nations by attracting capital funds to the United States and keeping world interest rates high, but it has also promoted economic growth around the world.

The U.S. deficit on trade and services, which reached \$100 billion in 1984 and is still rising, made America the locomotive of the economic revival worldwide. Indeed, without this stimulus many countries — industrialised and developing alike — would have seen little growth last year.

Any sudden fall in the dollar could upset growth in Western Europe, which has benefited from increased exports to the United States, and endanger the limited prospects of reducing unemployment.

It could also rekindle crises in heavily indebted countries such as Brazil and Mexico which were also able to boost exports to the United States and so use a smaller percentage of their earnings from abroad to pay the interest on their

foreign loans.

The bankers said Argentina's debt arrears, now totalling \$900 million, provide a constant reminder of the potential for the loosely-knit rescheduling accords to unravel.

As yet, such disruption from a plunging dollar has not occurred. The U.S. currency is now about eight to 10 per cent below the peak levels seen in February, and the world economy is still on track for growth.

But despite pressure, particularly from France, for a world monetary conference to address the problems of foreign exchange rates and high interest rates, the bankers will be seeking a mix of policies to prevent disruption, not a system of fixed currency parities to be defended.

The bank chiefs will also be looking at ways of translating economic recovery into shorter unemployment queues. Many believe that European economies will continue to be highly vulnerable to external factors.

Hong Kong stocks plunge over major bank collapse

HONG KONG (R) — Share prices plunged and the Hong Kong market index went into its biggest slide for 3-1/2 years Friday over the collapse of a leading bank.

Shares prices fell across the board — watched by anxious investors crowded around shop-window television screens — as the executive council, the British colony's policy-making body, began a crisis meeting to discuss the closure of the Overseas Trust Bank (OTB).

Radio stations reported runs on small banks throughout Hong Kong, the world's third ranking financial centre.

The government said Thursday it had closed OTB after the bank declared itself insolvent. It said police were probing the bank's affairs, and four people later were detained by police for questioning.

The bank has deposits estimated at 10 billion dollars (\$1.2 billion), about 1,400 staff and a widespread branch network in Hong Kong as well as several offices abroad.

Police said they were questioning four people, including a Malaysian senior official of OTB who was detained at Hong Kong's Kai Tak airport with money and securities.

They said two men and a woman, initially described as Hong Kong Chinese, were also arrested but none had been charged so far.

The stock market index plunged 86.95 points to close at 1542.55. It was 88 points down at one stage.

OTB's closure after business hours Thursday and ahead of the weekend gave the government

time to find a solution to the stricken bank's problems, bankers said.

Police guarded OTB offices Friday turning back staff and depositors.

Hong Kong does not insure deposits and any failure by the authorities to rescue OTB could undermine the colony's financial system at a time when confidence is creeping back after two years of uncertainty about its handover to China in 1997.

The government took over the Hang Lung Bank in September, 1983, after it ran into trouble and bankers believed similar action might be taken with OTB.

Hambro Pacific, an investment company, said it had been named by the government as financial adviser to OTB.

Inflation in Argentina goes into four digits

BUENOS AIRES (R) — Argentina's consumer prices rose 25.1 per cent during May, taking inflation over the past year to 1,010.1 per cent and into four digits for the first time in Argentine history.

The May inflation rate, published Thursday by the National Statistics Institute, was lower than the 29.5 per cent rise in April but higher than the 17.1 per cent increase in May, 1984.

The April rise — one of the highest monthly increases on record here and far above the 18.5 per cent in April 1984 — took inflation in the preceding 12 months to 938.8 per cent.

President Raul Alfonsin, who took office in December 1983 after nearly eight years of military rule, pledged in April to introduce a "war economy" to curb inflation and enable the country to repay its \$48 billion foreign debt.

Although few concrete measures have been enacted since, apart from proposals for a 12 per cent budget cut and some restrictions on public expenditure, trade unions and opposition political parties staged a one-day general strike and mass rally two weeks ago in protest at the pledged austerity moves.

Meanwhile, the Washington Post said Thursday that the United States is willing to join other nations in lending Argentina up to \$450 million to help it pay off \$1.2 billion in overdue commercial debts.

The Post quoted unidentified U.S. and Argentine sources as saying the loan depended on Argentina reaching agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) on economic austerity measures.

Suez Canal earnings may fall

CAIRO (R) — Egypt's 1985 earnings from tolls paid by ships using the Suez Canal are expected to fall by \$50 million from last year's \$950 million, canal authority chairman Mr. Ezzat Adel was quoted Friday as saying.

In an interview published by the semi-official newspaper Al Ahrar, Mr. Adel blamed the decline on the Iran-Iraq war, now in its 37th month, and on reduced trade by Gulf states whose oil incomes have plunged due to the current world glut.

The glut has also hit Egypt's own oil earnings, while Egyptian workers in the Gulf have sent less money home, cutting the country's other main hard currency sources.

Peanuts

OUR TENT LEAKED ALL NIGHT... NOW WE HAVE TO STAND IN THE RAIN FOR BREAKFAST!

MY HAIR IS WET... MY CLOTHES ARE WET... MY SHOES ARE WET...

I EVEN HAVE RAINWATER IN MY MOUTH... WHY DON'T YOU KEEP YOUR MOUTH CLOSED?

NATO ministers end talks without endorsing SDI

ESTORIL, Portugal (Agencies) — In a setback to U.S. arms control strategy, NATO foreign ministers concluded a two-day conference Friday without endorsing President Ronald Reagan's controversial "Star Wars" initiative.

With the French balking at formal endorsement of the research effort, the final communiqué failed to put the alliance squarely behind one of the key elements in the Reagan administration's nuclear arms talks with the Soviet Union.

However, the document did welcome U.S.-Soviet arms talks on strategic and intermediate range weapons as well as on "defence and space systems."

"These negotiations are intended to work out between the two countries effective agreements aimed at preventing an arms race in space and terminating it on earth, at limiting and reducing nuclear arms, and at strengthening strategic stability," it said.

"We strongly support U.S. efforts in all three areas of negotiation, and we call on the Soviet Union to adopt a positive approach," the communiqué said.

U.S. and French officials had said in advance that no endorsement of the research effort into a space-based anti-missile defence shield would be forthcoming.

At a news conference after the communiqué was issued, British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe said that "one would be happier if there had been a full endorsement" of the \$26 bil-

lion project.

"It's no secret that there were various attitudes about the longer term implications of this," he said.

At the same time, the communiqué called on the new Soviet leader, Mikhail Gorbachev, "to join us in seeking tangible improvements in East-West relations, which would permit us to build on areas of common interest."

"A positive Soviet response to the U.S. approach at the U.S.-Soviet negotiations recently opened in Geneva would contribute substantially towards that end," it said.

The allies also urged the Soviets to withdraw from Afghanistan, called for "genuine dialogue between the various elements of society" in Poland, and condemned terrorism.

There was no mention, nor had any been expected, of the allies' belief that Mr. Reagan should not abandon the unratified SALT II treaty, a major issue at this conference.

The ministers said they hoped the anniversary of the Helsinki agreement would be marked by substantial progress in European cooperation, including significant results from the current East-West human rights conference in Ottawa.

The statement reaffirmed NATO's existing strategy of nuclear deterrence.

It said NATO sought "genuine detente" in East-West relations through a constructive dialogue and broad cooperation with the Soviet Union and East European states.

The ministers repeated their determination to proceed with the deployment of U.S. medium-range nuclear missiles in Western Europe in the absence of a concrete result from negotiations.

In Thursday's super-restricted session, the European allies and Canada unanimously appealed to the U.S. not to cease observing the unratified 1979 SALT-II accord when it expires at the end of this year, diplomats said.

Mr. Reagan had postponed a decision on continued adherence to the treaty until this weekend to allow Secretary of State George Shultz time to consult the allies in this Portuguese coastal resort.

Mr. Shultz cabled two reports to Mr. Reagan, telling him the allies believed that abandoning the treaty would harm arms control prospects and inflame West European public opinion.

However, the U.S. official said several ministers had also expressed understanding of American concerns at apparent Soviet violations of existing arms treaties.

The diplomats said France was not alone in its criticism of SDI. Denmark, Norway and Greece were also unwilling to allow an explicit endorsement of the U.S. programme.

Allied defence minister, meeting without France, strongly backed "Star Wars" as being in



AT THE ELYSEE PALACE: Left to right: Mrs. Minister Rajiv Gandhi pose for photograph prior to a lunch at the Elysee Palace Friday. Mr. Gandhi is in Mitterrand, Mrs. Sonia Gandhi and Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.

25 Indian police die in gun battles

NEW DELHI (Agencies) — At least 25 police from two north east Indian states have died in gun battles over control of their border, the United News of India (UNI) said Friday.

The news agency said about 25,000 people had fled the area because of the clashes, which began three days ago over a demarcation dispute on the border between Assam and Nagaland states.

The Press Trust of India said Home Minister S.B. Chavan had ordered the chief ministers of the states to meet in Imphal, capital of neighbouring Manipur state, to resolve the crisis.

It said he told them to order an immediate ceasefire.

UNI quoted official sources in the Nagaland state capital of Kohima as saying 20 of the dead were police from Assam.

A large number of police from both sides were missing and efforts to recover bodies had so far failed because of continued heavy firing, the agency added.

Assam Chief Minister Hiteswar Saikia said Nagaland police were behaving as though war had broken out between the two sides.

Senior police in Gauhati, Assam's state capital said the Nagaland police had taken control of seven kilometres of Assam's territory.

There have been clashes in the region for a number of years, triggered by Nagaland's claim to parts of Assam's Sibsagar district.

The Patriot newspaper said in a report from Gauhati that mortars and machine guns were used in the clashes.

It said Nagaland was rushing about 1,000 part-time civilian militia reinforcements to the area.

Meanwhile in Amritsar militant Sikhs observed the last day of

"genocide week" Friday with slogan-shouting at the Golden Temple, stormed by the army one year ago, while Hindus and Sikhs clashed in Hoshiarpur and night curfew was imposed in the industrial city of Ludhiana.

"Long live Sikh rule," shouted several thousand young Sikhs who arrived by the truckload from the countryside of Punjab state. They entered the temple for ritual bathing and prayers but no meetings were held in the shrine Friday.

The Sikhs were turbans of saffron, the Sikh holy colour of defiance and self-sacrifice, and wore long swords and daggers — traditional Sikh weapons. They chanted slogans in praise of Sikh militant preacher Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale, slain in the temple attack last June 4 to 7.

Sikh militants had called for observance of "genocide week", June 1 to 7.

Bangladesh cyclone toll reaches 2,537

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP) — The official death toll from a cyclone which devastated coastal Bangladesh on May 24-25 rose to 2,537 Thursday with the recovery of 451 more bodies, government officials said Friday.

Officials told the Associated Press that 444 of the newly recovered bodies were found on Comapanyganj, six on Sonagazi and one on Sandwip Island off southern Bangladesh. The number of missing according to official figures is 4,862.

The hurricane, accompanied by 3-5 metre high tidal waves, is thought to have killed at least 10,000 and left 25,000 missing. Some press reports have put the death toll as high as 100,000, but the government maintained throughout the first week after the calamity that it was less than 2,000.

Regional leaders including Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, Sri Lankan President J.R. Jayawardene and Pakistan President Gen. Zia Ul Haq have visited the hardest-hit Unir Char Island in the Bay of Bengal where three-fourths of the island's population of 10,000 were washed away by the cyclone and tidal waves.

Indian Ocean storms of the type that hit Bangladesh generally are called cyclones, but may also be referred to as hurricanes or typhoons.

Meanwhile Princess Ashi Sonam C. Wangchuk of Bhutan left for home Friday after a two-day tour of Bangladesh to express sympathy for victims of a hurricane. The princess arrived here Thursday as personal envoy of her brother Bhutanese King Zingye Singye Wangchuk to express solidarity with the Bangladesh people.

Paraguay leader calls off Bonn visit

BONN (R) — Paraguayan President Alfredo Stroessner Friday called off a planned visit to West Germany, which had come under strong fire for his alleged shielding of notorious Nazi criminal Josef Mengele.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman said the Paraguayan authorities in Asuncion had informed them of the cancellation of the visit, planned for July, without giving any reasons.

Brazilian officials said Thursday a body which probably was that of Mengele had been discovered outside Sao Paulo.

Opposition politicians and the European Parliament had urged Chancellor Helmut Kohl to withdraw his invitation to Stroessner, who has ruled Paraguay for 31 years.

They claimed Stroessner had protected Mengele, the "angel of death" of Auschwitz extermination camp, who is wanted in West Germany on charges of murdering 400,000 people.

Brazil has requested Mengele's dental records from West Germany to determine whether the corpse exhumed Thursday is that of the concentration camp doctor, who carried out hideous medical experiments on inmates. Paraguay granted Mengele citizenship in 1959 but revoked it 20 years later and denies he is still in the country.

Sweden may hire military horses to cut costs

STOCKHOLM (R) — The Swedish government has ordered the military to study how horses used in parades and on other ceremonial occasions could be hired to cut costs. Government officials estimated that more than 1.7 million crowns (\$192,000) could be saved from the defence budget by transferring military horses to a private foundation, the national news agency TT reported. It said the foundation would rent the horses to the army whenever they were needed.

Police hunt women who escaped reform home

NEW DELHI (R) — Police searched Friday for 28 women prisoners including prostitutes who beat up male guards and escaped from a reform home because they wanted husbands. They were among 40 female prisoners, aged from 15 to 35, who broke out of the home in the central Indian city of Lucknow three days ago by overpowering five male warders.

Police Superintendent Priy Lal told Reuters by telephone from Lucknow that so far 12 prisoners had been recaptured. The women rushed the guards, took their keys and then drove them off with a hail of stones. Some prisoners did not wait for the gates to be opened and scaled the walls. "One of their grievances was that they wanted to get married," Lal said. The Indian Express newspaper said other complaints were that some of them had been waiting for trial for up to three years and guards had sexually abused prisoners.

U.S. Senate approves aid for 'Contras'

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. Senate has provisionally voted to send \$38 million of non-military aid to rebels in Nicaragua, in a move denounced by opponents as money for war.

The Senate voted 55-42 Thursday night to back President Reagan and attach the aid to a government spending bill.

But sponsors of the so-called humanitarian aid fear the Senate may still approve military aid if it debates further amendments to the bill.

This might undo a potential compromise in Washington on support for the Nicaraguan rebels, known as "Contras," who are fighting to topple Managua's leftist Sandinist government.

Mr. Reagan hailed the Senate vote, saying it opened the way to

"provide support for the freedom fighters who are struggling for liberty and democracy in Nicaragua."

But Democratic Senator Edward Kennedy of Massachusetts said: "This assistance is nothing more than logistical support for the Contra war against the Sandinistas. This is more money for more war."

Other opponents said Mr. Reagan's policy was leading to U.S. combat involvement in Nicaragua, and Sen. Kennedy said: "The conclusion is unmistakable: 'The administration is preparing for war in Nicaragua.'"

Even opponents agree the House of Representatives is likely to approve humanitarian aid for the rebels in a vote due next Tuesday, reversing its rejection of all

rebel aid in April.

The humanitarian aid would replace covert military support which the U.S. Congress cut off last year.

A proposal by Sen. Kennedy to prohibit sending U.S. combat troops to Nicaragua without Congress' approval was rejected by a Senate vote of 64-31.

Senator Sam Nunn, a Georgia Democrat and a chief sponsor of the humanitarian aid package passed Thursday night, said the money — \$14 million this year and \$24 million next year — could be spent on military uniforms and radar.

He said his proposal would also allow the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency and other government agencies to share intelligence with the rebels.

British military car rammed in E. Germany

WEST BERLIN (R) — A British military car was rammed and two officers held by Soviet soldiers for five hours in East Germany, Western allied sources said Friday.

No-one was hurt in Tuesday's incident, just 10 weeks after Maj. Arthur Nicholson, a member of the parallel U.S. liaison team in East Germany, was shot dead by a sentry near a Soviet military base.

Moscow has rejected U.S. compensation demands, insisting he was spying in a restricted area.

The sources said the British officers, attached to the British Liaison Mission, were in open countryside and nowhere near a restricted zone when their car was rammed. "No-one knows why it happened or what the Soviets were trying to achieve," one source said.

The vehicle was surrounded by Soviet officers for five hours. It was then allowed to leave after two tyres, damaged in the collision, had been changed.

No further details were available.

U.S. senator says accused spy had no security clearance

WASHINGTON (R) — An influential U.S. senator has said a member of an accused navy family spy ring had no military security clearance to handle the top secret papers he allegedly stole for the Soviet Union.

Senator Sam Nunn, a Georgia Democrat, told a news conference that "as of this date, we cannot find — the navy or the Defence Department — neither of them can confirm that yeoman Michael Walker has ever been cleared."

Walker is accused of giving the documents from the U.S.S. Nimitz aircraft carrier to his father, John Walker, for delivery to the Soviet Union.

The senior Walker, his brother, Arthur, and his closest friend,

Jerry Whitworth, all of whom had been in the navy, had security clearances, according to the Pentagon.

All are accused of spying in what the navy fears is the worst espionage crisis in its history.

Meanwhile Justice Department officials confirmed Thursday a fifth person under investigation in the spy ring was Gary Walker, half brother of John Walker and also in the Navy. There was no indication whether he would be charged.

The FBI was tipped off by the former wife of John Walker who told the Los Angeles Times in an interview published Thursday he started selling secrets in the late 1960s to save a failing restaurant and bar in South Carolina.

U.N. Assembly president proposes 'summit of summits'

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The president of the U.N. General Assembly, Paul Lusaka of Zambia, has proposed turning the annual assembly sessions into a "summit of summits", attended by heads of state or government.

He was speaking at a special meeting attended by nine former assembly presidents as part of the United Nations' 40th anniversary celebrations.

The unique gathering was organised by the U.N. Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) to discuss ways of improving the procedures of the assembly, which has more than tripled its membership from 51 states in 1945 to the present total of 159.

Mr. Lusaka said: "There has been a dramatic shift of responsibility in international affairs to the heads of state or government."

This was reflected in the various summit meetings held almost annually, he said.

"The necessary, urgent and inevitable conclusion is that the General Assembly must be made an occasion for meetings of heads of state or government — in other words, a summit of summits."

"Summitry is a new political art whose time has come."

He noted there was a strong move for world leaders to attend the assembly's 40th regular session opening in September.

Except on special anniversaries, the number of heads of state or government attending U.N. sessions is relatively small. Most delegations are headed by foreign ministers, who usually remain only for a short time after delivering a speech surveying the world scene.

Mr. Lusaka said: "One of the present problems of the general assembly is that very important personalities come, deliver a major statement and then leave."

"Summit meetings would give them an occasion to listen to one another. To know one another better and to work together in many ways..."

He said he had also heard suggestions that most of each 13-week Assembly could be devoted to preparing decisions that could then be adopted by a meeting of heads of state or government.

Special attention should be given to bringing the work of the Assembly closer to the people, he said, suggesting a world-wide television broadcast of its opening and the televising of its debates "as a means of global education."

"The people no longer want to be left out of the global world in the making. They want to be part of it," he said.

Invitations were sent to 23 assembly presidents to attend the UNITAR gathering, most of which will take place behind closed doors.

The 10 who came to New York were: Amintore Fanfani of Italy (1965 assembly); Corelio Mancosu of Romania (1967); Stanislaw Trepczynski of Poland (1972); Leopoldo Benites of Ecuador (1973); Abdel Aziz Boumedienne of Algeria (1974); Salim Salim of Tanzania (1979); Rudiger von Weizsacker of West Germany (1980); Ismat Kittani of Iraq (1981); Imre Hollai of Hungary (1982); and Paul Lusaka of Zambia (1984), whose term expires in September.

Gaston Thorn of Luxembourg, president of the 1975 assembly, will attend later sessions.

Discovery crew rehearses shuttle launch countdown

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida (R) — The first space crew with representatives from three nations have gone through a countdown rehearsal in advance of their launching aboard the U.S. space shuttle Discovery on June 17.

A Saudi Arabian Prince, Sultan Salman Abdul Aziz Al Saud, nephew of King Fahd, and Patrick Baudry, a Frenchman who was "bumped" from an earlier shuttle mission, will join five American astronauts for the seven-day mission.

"This is the first flight in space with three nations on board," noted Mission Commander Daniel Brandenstein.

"I think it is significant we have a very useful piece of equipment here in the space shuttle and it is

not just useful for Americans but useful for the whole world."

The 28-year-old Saudi Prince, who will help deploy a satellite belonging to several Arab nations during the mission, said he could hardly wait to get into space.

"I wish it were launch day," he said. "We only have 11 days to go. I think the 11 days will pass like 11 years."

Baudry, whose first space flight was cancelled last March, was hoping it would not happen again.

"I have responsibility for a group of French medical experiments and I hope that this time I go with the rest of my crew," said Baudry, whose original crewmates flew a mission in April without him after their March flight was cancelled.

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GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN

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SPOT THAT LINE

Neither vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ 463
♥ 78
♦ A1063
♣ Q865

WEST
♠ 742
♥ 8543
♦ Q8542
♣ 9

EAST
♠ 5
♥ A Q J 109
♦ A K J 9
♣ J 1043

SOUTH
♠ A K Q 1098
♥ K 8
♦ 7
♣ A K 72

The bidding:
South West North East
2 ♠ Pass 2 ♠
2 ♥ Pass 3 ♠ Pass
4 NT Pass 5 ♠ Pass
6 ♠ Pass Pass
Opening lead: Nine of ♠.

The common finesse positions are known to all. Some of the more obscure combinations, including the ability to take repeat finesses, have to be worked out at the table.

South's opening bid was artificial and forcing and North's response was negative. After East's overall, South showed his suit and North's single raise promised some values — with trump support and nothing else he would either have repeated

his denial or jumped to game. Life would have been easier for South had a heart been led, setting up his king. Since the club lead was obviously a singleton, declarer won on the table with the queen and made the farthest play of the seven from hand. This was to have dramatic repercussions later in the play.

After drawing three rounds of trumps, ending on the table, declarer called for the eight of clubs. East covered, declarer won the king and crossed back to the board with the ace of diamonds. The six of clubs was led, and the beauty of South's earlier unblock became apparent. If East covered, declarer would win the king and be able to get back to dummy by overtaking the two with the five. If he ducked, declarer would remain on the table. In either case, declarer would retain an entry on the board to lead a heart toward his king. Thus, his only loser was a heart.

Note that if declarer had not jettisoned the seven of clubs at trick one, he would have been defeated. He would have been able to pick up the club suit, but then he would have been trapped in hand, forced to lead away from the king of hearts at the end. Try it, if you don't believe us.

The Soviet space effort is aimed at setting up a permanently manned station.